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Japan

Miyazawa To Meet Clinton Between 10-20 Apr

OW0203102993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1019 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 2 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and U.S. President Bill Clinton will meet for their first summit in Washington sometime between April 10 and April 20, a senior government official said Tuesday [2 March]. Miyazawa is likely to depart after the April 12 formal engagement ceremony for Crown Prince Naruhito and his fiancee, former diplomat Masako Owada, the official said. The daily ASAHI SHIMBUN reported Tuesday the summit meeting is being planned for April 16.

Economic relations in the wake of Japan's record 107 billion dollar trade surplus in 1992 and its 44 billion dollar surplus with the U.S. according to U.S. trade data, are likely to top the agenda.

Last week Clinton expressed concern about America's "persistent and unchanging" trade deficit with Japan and said he would continue pushing Tokyo to open its markets. Government and ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) officials have been mulling ways to stimulate the flagging domestic economy ahead of Miyazawa's U.S. trip.

Government representative for foreign affairs Nobuo Matsunaga, a former ambassador to Washington, in a meeting Friday with LDP Secretary General Seiroku Kajiyama, proposed drawing up an economic package that will open Japan's markets wider to imports and expand domestic consumption.

Miyazawa and Clinton are also expected to confer on the Tokyo economic summit of the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrialized countries an July.

Prior to Miyazawa's visit Clinton is slated to hold separate meetings with French President Francois Mitterrand on March 9, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl on March 26, and Russian President Boris Yeltsin on April 4. Clinton has already met with British Prime Minister John Major and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

An earlier plan for Miyazawa to swing through Canada following the Washington visit was aborted after Mulroney announced he would step down in June, in advance of the G-7 summit, a government source said Monday. Mulroney's successor will not be selected until shortly before the summit.

Official 'Whimsically' Proposes Aid for U.S.

OW0203112793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1120 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 2 KYODO—A senior Foreign Ministry official joked Tuesday that the United States should be made eligible for Japanese aid as one way of addressing Japan's chronic bilateral trade surplus. The official, speaking to reporters on condition of anonymity, suggested whimsically that the U.S. could be placed on the list of eligible countries drawn up by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC). The DAC consists of Japan, the U.S. and other major donor countries in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. The official subsequently qualified his remarks as a joke.

Such remarks recall President Bill Clinton's criticism of predecessor George Bush during the 1992 presidential campaign for striking a pathetic figure to Tokyo, with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa expressing "sympathy" over U.S. troubles.

The official's remarks came in the context of how Japan should address its massive trade imbalance with the U.S., which stood at 132 billion dollars in 1992. He said Japanese companies should help the U.S. out by investing in infrastructure and mass transit, areas which have been emphasized by Clinton as keys to facilitating an economic recovery.

MITI Welcomes U.S. Stance on Microchip Sanctions

OW0203080493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0727 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 2 KYODO—Japan's trade ministry Tuesday [2 March] welcomed the U.S. semiconductor industry's reported plan not to ask Washington to retaliate against Japan. The U.S. side has given "high credits to our efforts to purchase foreign-made semiconductors," an official of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said. He said the foreign share of the Japanese computer chip market is on the rise and Tokyo hopes the U.S. Government, which has taken a hardline approach on the microchip issue, understands Japan's efforts.

A major U.S. economic daily reported Tuesday that the U.S. semiconductor industry does not plan to ask the U.S. Government this month to retaliate against Japan under a bilateral semiconductor agreement. The industry's decision alleviates the threat that President Bill Clinton's administration, which is trying to develop an overall policy toward Japan, might have to take steps that could ignite a trade war, the WALL STREET JOURNAL said. Japan was supposed to import 20 percent of its computer chips by the end of 1992 under the 1990 semiconductor accord or face possible sanctions. The imported share of the Japanese market has fallen short of the 20 percent mark.

The trade ministry official said the figure is "an effort target and not a promise." The 1990 accord has led to "sufficient achievements" and this "should not be broken with lopsided measures," he said. "We are looking forward to constructive measures by the U.S. side."

The U.S. daily quoted Howard High, an Intel Corp. spokesman, as saying the industry expected Japan's import share to have risen by about one percentage point, to around 17 percent. If the market share is increasing, High said, "it will be hard to call for sanctions at least until June," the daily reported.

Cray's Supercomputer Bid Criticism Draws MITI Response

OW0203125993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1247 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 2 KYODO—A top Japanese trade official Tuesday [2 March] showed anger toward a U.S. computer maker that complained about the government's procurement of a supercomputer. "It's absolutely unreasonable. I can't understand what they contended," the official of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said, excoriating the criticism made by Cray Research Inc. of a performance test done Monday on an NEC Corp. supercomputer to be made for a government research lab. The U.S. company, which claims it unfairly lost to NEC in a bid to make the supercomputer, complained that the test was not done with software made by Cray.

In an unusual arrangement, Cray was allowed to attend the test conducted by the National Institute for Fusion Science at its facilities in Gifu Prefecture. The institute said the NEC supercomputer proved to have the technological capabilities that the company claimed it had. NEC made the performance claims last June as part of its bid to make a supercomputer for the institute.

The official said he had thought that Cray had already been given enough concessions since the U.S. company was allowed to attend the test session even though it lost the bid. "The U.S. has its supercomputer market closed to Japanese machines, and has no grounds for complaining about Japan," the official said. "The U.S. says bilateral talks over supercomputer trade are only a forum for discussing the issues concerning the Japanese market," he said.

Mori Wants Dollar-Yen Rate Above 120 Yen Level

OW0203023493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0213 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 2 KYODO—Any further strong gain of the yen against the U.S. dollar in foreign exchange dealings is not welcome, Japan's trade minister said Tuesday. International Trade and Industry Minister Yoshiro Mori said at a press conference that the yen's appreciation should not stand in the way of Japan's economic recovery.

Mori expressed hope that the dollar-yen rate will go back to above the 120 yen level and attributed the yen's fallback at the beginning of this week to the absence of an accord by Group of Seven nations to support a stronger Japanese currency, contrary to earlier speculation. The minister, however, acknowledged that a moderate gain of the yen would be acceptable over the long term.

MITI Minister: Yen Eases as Speculation Proved Wrong

OW0103084193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0751 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 1 KYODO—The yen has eased against the U.S. dollar in foreign exchange dealings because speculation that the Group of Seven (G-7) economic powers would agree on a stronger yen proved wrong, Japan's vice trade minister said Monday. Yuji Tanahashi, vice minister of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), told a press conference the yen surged against the dollar last week because of that speculation.

G-7 finance ministers and central bank governors met Saturday [278 Feb] in London without making any explicit agreements on a stronger yen. Tanahashi said the yen's moderate gain against the dollar is acceptable to his ministry and the industry could stand it. The dollar finished Monday at 118.43 yen, up 0.58 yen from Friday's close.

Emperor Meets Kohl, Hosts Luncheon

OW0103090593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0840 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 1 KYODO—German Chancellor Helmut Kohl met Emperor Akihito at the Imperial Palace on Monday and the emperor later hosted a luncheon there, Imperial Household Agency officials said. During a 20-minute talk, Kohl conveyed German President Richard von Weizsacker's hope of soon meeting the emperor in Germany, the officials said. The emperor and empress are expected to visit Europe, including Germany, after the summer although no date has been fixed. The emperor and Kohl spoke through an interpreter for about 20 minutes.

During the conversation, the emperor remarked that Germany had experienced "many difficulties" as a result of unification, the officials said. They said that Kohl told the emperor the problems were insignificant compared to those experienced when there were two Germanies. The emperor later hosted a luncheon in Kohl's honor at the palace. Crown Prince Naruhito also attended.

Kohl Departs for Seoul 1 Mar

OW0103063593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0559 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 1 KYODO—German Chancellor Helmut Kohl concluded his four-day visit to Japan early Monday afternoon [1 March] and flew to Seoul on the last leg of his 12-day Asian swing. Kohl will be the first foreign guest of newly inaugurated South Korean President Kim Yong-sam.

The German leader is scheduled to meet for separate talks with Kim and South Korean Prime Minister Hwang In-song on Tuesday. He will exchange views with Korean legislators Wednesday and meet representatives of South Korea's four big economic federations the same day.

During his stay in Seoul, Kohl, who is accompanied by representatives of major German companies, is also expected to lobby for South Korea to buy Germany's intercity express high-speed train system.

The German train is competing with Japanese and French high-speed systems for a 2.5 billion dollar contract to be awarded in April or May as part of South Korea's biggest public project to link Pusan and Seoul by high-speed railway. In Tokyo, Kohl met Emperor Akihito, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, International Trade and Industry Minister Yoshiro Mori, and representatives of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren).

On his current trip, Kohl also visited India, Singapore, and Indonesia. He is expected to meet Russian President Boris Yeltsin during a one-hour stopover in Moscow on Wednesday.

Hayashi, Lamont Agree To Discuss Liberalizing Insurance

OW2802010993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0030 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] London, Feb. 28 KYODO—Japanese Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi and his British counterpart agreed Saturday [27 February] to facilitate bilateral discussions on liberalization of the Japanese insurance market, Japanese officials said. Hayashi and Chancellor of the Exchequer Norman Lamont also expressed satisfaction with Saturday's meeting in London of finance ministers and central bank governors of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial countries. No communique was issued at the end of the meeting, which officials had stressed would be informal.

"The meeting was held in a good atmosphere," Hayashi said. Lamont agreed and said it was better than past G-7 meetings since participants did not have to concentrate on producing a communique.

In their first bilateral meeting as finance chiefs, the two ministers broadly exchanged views on macroeconomic issues as well as fiscal and monetary policies, the officials said.

No IAEA Linkage in DPRK Normalization Talks

OW0103093893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0924 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 1 KYODO—Pyongyang's refusal to allow international inspections of its nuclear facilities would not disrupt ongoing talks aimed at establishing diplomatic relations between Japan and North Korea, top government spokesman Yohei Kono said Monday. Chief Cabinet Secretary Kono expressed regret at North Korea's refusal to open its nuclear facilities to inspection and said Japan would continue to press for compliance in bilateral talks. Japan is demanding North Korea disprove suspicions that it is developing a nuclear weapons capability prior to opening diplomatic ties.

Last week the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) passed a resolution demanding Pyongyang permit inspections of two sites at Yongbyon nuclear facility within a month, or risk the threat of U.N. sanctions.

North Korea slammed the resolution and threatened to adopt "a self-defensive measure" to protect the nation's sovereignty, the KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY (KCNA) reported Monday.

Mozambique Survey Team To Leave 4 Mar

OW0203133093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1215 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 2 KYODO—A Japanese Government team will visit Mozambique from March 4 to 16 to explore the possibility of Japan contributing civilian and military personnel to U.N. peacekeeping operations there, a Foreign MiNistry spokesman said Tuesday [2 March]. Spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa told Japanese reporters the government will decide whether to participate in the U.N. mission in Mozambique after the nine-member survey team returns.

A senior Foreign Ministry source expressed optimism that Japanese participation could be realized in time for the U.N. operation, considering delays in implementation of the 7,500-strong peacekeeping mission.

He acknowledged a difference of opinion on the issue between the Foreign Ministry and the prime minister's office, with Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono advocating that the Japanese efforts now underway in Cambodia be concluded before participating in peacekeeping operations elsewhere.

Kono, who is acting foreign minister in place of ailing Michio Watanabe, has cited concern that the government might stumble and lose public backing if it expands its newfound peacekeeping role too rapidly. But the ministry official said simultaneous participation would be an ideal way to show the world Japan is not only interested in Asia. He suggested Japan send 40-50 members of the Self-Defense Forces to Mozambique, while keeping some 600 on duty in Cambodia.

"From the international community's perspective, Japan's present level of participation in U.N. peacekeeping activities is negligible, and thus not highly thought of," the official said.

He added that Japan should strive to be accepted into the "inner circle" of contributing nations and said it cannot do so through the occasional short-term dispatch of small numbers of election- monitoring personnel to countries like Angola. The

Diet passed U.N. peacekeeping legislation last summer, paving the way for the first overseas dispatch of ground troops since World War II.

A 600-member Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF) corps of engineers was dispatched to Cambodia last September, mainly for road and bridge repairs.

The fact-finding team to Mozambique, joined by personnel from the Foreign Ministry, the Defense Agency and the government's International Peace Cooperation Headquarters, will explore contributions in nonmilitary areas such as the environment, politics and social programs, as well as the military field.

Japan is likely to offer to contribute monitors to observe elections slated for October, according to a government source.

Emperor, Empress To Visit Europe in September

OW2802011793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0054 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 28 KYODO—Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko will leave Tokyo around September 2 for a two-to-three-week tour of Italy, Belgium and Germany, a Tokyo newspaper reported Sunday [28 February]. The SANKEI SHIMBUN said the emperor and empress will make their first stop in Italy, and then head for Belgium, followed by Germany, spending four nights in each country. In Italy, the couple will visit the Vatican.

It will the third overseas trip by the imperial couple since the emperor ascended the chrysanthemum throne in January 1989. They visited Southeast Asia in 1991 and China in 1992. The monarch's father, Emperor Hirohito, posthumously named Emperor Showa, visited Britain and the former West Germany in 1971.

Miyazawa Terms Trade Surplus 'Problem'

OW0103034793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0306 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 1 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Monday [1 March] that Japan's trade surplus is a problem for the world economy. Commenting in a meeting with reporters at his official residence on the outcome of Saturday's talks in London among finance ministers and central bankers of the Group of Seven (G-7) nations, Miyazawa said the results were almost as he had expected. Asked to comment on mounting hopes for Japan to reduce its trade surplus after the London meeting, Miyazawa said, "It (the surplus) is indeed a problem."

EC Auto Export Quota Talks Fail

OW0203114793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1116 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 2 KYODO—Japan and the European Community (EC) failed to agree on quotas for Japanese automobile exports to the EC market in 1993, government officials said Tuesday [2 March]. In an inconclusive two-day meeting that ended Tuesday, Japan and the EC remained divided on how much demand would decline this year from the previous year in the whole EC automobile market, the officials of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry said. They said the two sides agreed to meet again as soon as possible but a schedule and venue have yet to be decided.

Last year, Japan cut its quota for car exports to the EC by 6 percent from the previous year to 1,185,000 vehicles. For 1993, monitoring export quotas, effectively considered a voluntary export restraint, are supposed to be set for the whole EC market and five individual EC member nations.

Cambodia Cease-Fire Observers To Be Rotated

OW0103034593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0326 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 1 KYODO—Japan plans to send replacements at the end of March for the eight cease-fire observers assisting U.N. peacekeeping operations in Cambodia, the top government spokesman said Monday.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono said Lieut. Col. Eiichi Tamura would lead the new eight-member team, which is scheduled to replace the first contingent when it returns home at the end of its six-month assignment later this month.

Russian Representative Seeks Okinawa Trade

OW2802000893 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 25 Feb 93 Morning Edition p 2

[Text] Vladimir P. Pavlov, Russian trade representative in Japan, called on Governor Masahide Ota on 24 February and sought cooperation in promoting economic exchanges between Okinawa and Russia.

Mr. Pavlov said: "I often see the governors of Hokkaido and Niigata to discuss measures to promote exchanges in trade and industry. Our door is always open. We also hope to have active economic exchange with Okinawa."

Governor Ota stated his impressions of Russia gained during his trip there last year, saying: "I hear Russia is abundant in timber. Okinawa is currently importing steel scraps from Russia. I expect our trade relations will be further deepened. Also, I want to give young Okinawans the opportunity to study Russia's superb art." In this way, Ota indicated his expectation that Okinawa will promote exchanges with Russia not only in the economic arena but also in the cultural field.

Tax Cut Dispute Stalls Diet, Budget Talks

OW0203062493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0608 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 2 KYODO—Diet business remained stalled Tuesday as the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) rejected an opposition proposal for a tax reduction amounting to 4.26 trillion yen, including an income tax cut, LDP officials said. The LDP rejected the joint proposal put forward by the Social Democratic Party [of Japan] (SDP) [SDPJ], Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) in a meeting of the parties' Diet Affairs Committee chairmen, the officials said. The LDP, instead, proposed setting up a consultative body of the ruling and opposition parties to deal with ways of overcoming Japan's economic slowdown, the officials said.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa accused the opposition of making "a joke" of Diet business amid Japan's economic slump. The three opposition parties turned down the LDP proposal because the ruling party rejected their tax cut measures.

The ruling party proposed that the consultative body, to be chaired by LDP Secretary General Seiroku Kajiyama, should comprise the leaders of the ruling and opposition parties, including secretaries general and Diet Affairs Committee chairmen. The stalemate on a tax cut deal will keep the House of Representatives Budget Committee and the lower house plenary session at an impasse, the officials said. In addition, they said, a scheduled meeting Tuesday of the secretaries general of the LDP and the three opposition parties has been canceled.

Apart from housing tax and certain other tax reductions, the government and the ruling party maintain that the opposition-proposed income tax cut would not necessarily stimulate consumers spending, one of the essentials of economic recovery. The government and the LDP hope to have the Diet approve the 72.35 trillion yen fiscal 1993 budget bill before the new fiscal year starts on April 1.

Following the passage of the budget bill through the Diet, the LDP will hold talks with the opposition to seek a possibility of cutting taxes on housing, education fees, and other taxes, LDP sources said. On February 24, the three opposition parties presented their own joint budget revision plan centering on the income tax cuts.

Meanwhile, the SDP and Komeito agreed to prepare a package of political reform bills for an electoral system that would combine single-seat constituencies and proportional representation for the 512-seat lower house, SDP officials said.

The LDP last December proposed introducing single-seat constituencies as the main pillar of its political reform plan.

Public Investment Sought for ISDN Network

OW0203141393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1052 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 2 KYODO—Japan's postal ministry will seek to tap into public funds for huge investments in the next generation of telecommunications infrastructure, ministry officials said Tuesday [2 March]. They said the Posts and Telecommunications Ministry plans to draft a blueprint for building a nationwide broadband integrated services digital network (B-ISDN) if it gets approval for the project from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party. The move comes in response to U.S. President Bill Clinton's ambitious plan to pour a large amount of public funds into enhancing the telecommunications infrastructure in the United States.

Japan's telecommunications industry has been leery of shouldering the financial burden for the B-ISDN infrastructure, which it is estimated would cost as much as 33 trillion yen, almost half the fiscal 1993 national budget. B-ISDN is a large-scale optical fiber network system for transmitting voice, video, and other data over a digital communications line. The ministry officials said money for the investments should come from both the private and public sectors because it is such a mammoth project.

Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. has already introduced a draft plan that eyes completion of the work by 2015, but the issue of who foots the bill remains unsolved.

"NTT can ill afford to provide a large amount of funds for the project amid the increasingly tough competition in the telecommunications field," an NTT official said. The Finance Ministry is likely to oppose the postal ministry's proposal on cost grounds, the ministry officials said.

Using public money for the B-ISDN project would represent a turnaround from the ministry's basic policy of leaving investments in telecommunications infrastructure in the hands of private-sector operators since the privatization of the NTT and other deregulations in the telecommunications business in 1985.

Finance Minister Denies G-7 Pressure

OW2802140193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1310 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 28 KYODO—Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi on Sunday [28 February] denied reports that Japan was urged to take additional fiscal measures at Saturday's financial meeting of Group of Seven (G-7) countries in London. The Ministry of Finance has "no plans whatsoever" to implement such steps, Hayashi told a news conference after reporting to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on the outcome of the G-7 meeting. He stressed that he obtained "understanding" from the other G-7 nations for Japan's policy.

"I told the other G-7 countries that the Japanese economy is now in an adjustment phase and an early passage of the fiscal 1993 budget plan through the Diet is important," he said. "The early approval of the budget will help bolster domestic demand and reduce Japan's current account surplus," Hayashi said. "I believe my counterparts understood Tokyo's position."

On exchange rates, he told the meeting it is "desirable" for currencies to reflect the economic fundamentals of respective nations and move in a stable way. He also said no request was made for lower interest rates in Germany.

Satellite Communications Firms To Merge

OW0203062893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0553 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 2 KYODO—Two of Japan's three private satellite communications companies will merge in a bid to survive the economic slump, industry sources said Tuesday. The companies are Japan Communications Satellite Co. (JCSAT), in which Itochu Corp. and Mitsui and Co. are major shareholders, and Satellite Japan Corp. (SAJAC) with Sumitomo Corp. and Nissho Iwai Corp. the major shareholders. The two companies plan to work out an agreement this week on the merger, the industry sources said. They said the merger will be formally announced next week after consultations with the Posts and Telecommunications Ministry and the Fair Trade Commission, and actual integration is likely this summer.

The sources said that the major shareholders of the satellite communications companies—the four trading houses—will hold shares in the newly merged concern and Itochu will be the largest of the four.

The sources said the economic slump had caused a sharp decline in demand for the companies' services. Although each will be an equal partner the value of the shares will be counted as one JCSAT share to about two SAJAC shares.

The two satellite communications companies were among three that were established in 1985 when satellite communications services were liberalized. The third company is Space Communications Corp., a member of the Mitsubishi Group. JCSAT launched two communications satellites in 1989 and 1990 and has institutional users such as Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. but demand for its services has declined sharply amid the prolonged domestic economic slump. The net working rate of its service facility has dropped nearly to the break-even line of 60 percent, the sources said. SAJAC, on the other hand, started operating in 1991. It had planned to launch its own satellites in June 1994 but the plan was put off because of the economic slowdown.

With further advancing technology and expected competition from overseas, the two companies realized that the market could become over-supplied with satellite communications services. The two companies initially considered an operational tie-up in limited areas but in the end opted to merge because it was more profitable, the sources said.

Farm Ministry To Cut Dairy Produce Prices

OW0203130593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1243 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 2 KYODO—Japan's farm ministry plans to reduce the fiscal 1993 government-guaranteed price of milk used to make butter and powdered milk for the first time in two years, ministry sources said Tuesday [2 March]. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries will determine the scale of the planned reduction on the basis of milk production costs in the northernmost area of Hokkaido, where the latest survey of such costs will be published in the middle of this month.

A producers' organization, however, expects the dairy produce price may drop as much as 4-5 yen from the current 76.75 yen per kilogram.

After consulting with the Finance Ministry and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the ministry will present its plan on March 25 to a subcommittee of the Livestock Industry Promotion Council for recommendations.

The ministry's decision takes into account falling costs of dairy production, like feed prices, and mounting foreign pressure on Japan at the Uruguay Round of global trade talks to reduce its farm protection and narrow the gaps between domestic and overseas farm product prices. But producers' organizations are certain to oppose the ministry's move, citing their business difficulties resulting from liberalization of the nation's beef market in 1991 and other inconveniencies, according to the sources.

Cotton Yarn Producer Plans Major Cutback

OW0203010093 Tokyo KYODO in English 2336 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 2 KYODO—Toyobo Co. plans to suspend production at 10 of its 12 cotton yarn plants for four to eight days in mid-March, and lay off some 3,000 workers, or nearly 40 percent of its work force, during that period, news reports said Tuesday. The major spinning company intends to cut back excess inventory resulting from slack shipment due to competition from cheap imports and weak demand in the prolonged economic slump, according to reports in the newspapers ASAHI SHIMBUN, MAINICHI SHIMBUN, NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN and on Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) news.

The reports said such a large output cutback is the first in the Japanese spinning industry since 1974 in the aftermath of the first international oil crisis. The company will closely watch business conditions to consider extending the plan in and after April, the reports said.

The company will pay wages to the laid-off employees and has applied to the Labor Ministry for employment adjustment subsidies for the first time in 10 years, the dailies and NHK said.

Tokyo To Extend $10 Million Aid for African Refugees

OW2602132993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1304 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—Japan will extend some 10 million dollars worth of food aid to four Horn of Africa countries where Somalians have been suffering from severe food shortages, the Foreign Ministry said Friday [26 February]. The food aid, extended through the World Food Program, will go to Somali refugees in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Djibouti, as well as to afflicted people in Somalia itself.

The aid comes on top of assistance totalling 9.6 million dollars that Japan decided February 12 to extend to international organizations engaged in Somali-related humanitarian activities. Diplomatic notes on the latest aid pledge were exchanged in Rome earlier in the day between representatives of Japan and the World Food Program.

Business Panel To Look at Revising Constitution

OW0203134693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1002 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 2 KYODO—A leading business lobby plans to form a panel to study the possibility of revising the nation's Constitution so it reflects Japan's changed role in global affairs, the lobby's head said Tuesday [2 March]. Masaru Hayami, chairman of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Keizai Doyukai), told a press conference there is a "need to review the entire Constitution in light of the changing situations at home and overseas." "The Constitution issue is an inevitable matter for Doyukai to deal with," he said.

While conceding there are diverse views on the delicate issue inside Keizai Doyukai, Hayami said the study group, the first such panel formed by a major business lobby, will start functioning in April. Industry sources said the panel may spur active public debate on reviewing the 45-year-old Constitution, including its war-renouncing article 9, which some believe has become unrealistic given Japan's involvement in United Nations peacekeeping operations abroad.

The proposal has drawn mixed responses from business leaders. Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Japan Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), opposes any talks aimed at constitutional revision, while Rokuro Ishikawa, chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, has shown a more flexible attitude.

Meanwhile, another Keizai Doyukai committee published a report Tuesday [2 March] proposing a sweeping revision of the Constitution. Noting the need for overhauls of politics, administration and other areas to respond to the mounting expectations of the international community, the report said it is not necessary to keep the original words of the Constitution intact forever in order to preserve its spirit. Presenting the report, Ryuzaburo Kaku, chairman of the Committee on Corporations and Consumers, said a completely new Constitution should be drawn up, revamping such points as article 9 and the people's obligations and rights.

Kaku, also chairman of camera maker Canon Inc. and widely known as an advocate for a new Constitution, stressed the importance of efforts to activate public debate on the problem.

Finance Adviser Demands Initiative in Boosting Economy

[Editorial report] Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese at 0000 GMT on 28 February carries a 60-minute roundtable discussion with Makoto Utsumi, adviser to the Finance Ministry; Kenji Mizutani, executive director of Tokai Bank; Takeshi Kondo, director of Itochu Corporation Research Institute for Political and Economic Affairs; and Yukio Okamoto, president of Okamoto Associates Limited. NHK commentator Takehiko Mizuki moderates the show.

After a seven-minute report by NHK reporter Nobuyuki Itagaki on the results of the 27 February conference of the Group of Seven [G-7] finance ministers and central bank governors, Mizuki asks attendants to discuss current trends in the foreign exchange market in connection with the recent upswing in the yen rate.

Utsumi says the major objective of the conference was to reconfirm the G-7's accords to jointly seek steady economic growth following the changes in Japanese and U.S. leadership. While speculators triggered the yen rate hike on the eve of the conference, Utsumi argues that "the G-7 did not show any moves to make the market overstep economic fundamentals."

Asked if he expects additional increases in the yen rate, Utsumi says: "After the G-7 conference, the market will recover its sense of balance and will coolly observe the economic situation of each nation. Many people are pessimistic about the future of the Japanese economy. If the economy is really hopeless, the market would never expect the yen rate hike."

Asked if a stronger yen will reduce Japan's trade surplus, Utsumi notes that changes in foreign exchange rates have great influences on the external accounts, but they often affect the domestic market. He says: "In my opinion, the trade balance cannot be corrected unless market stability is secured. Manipulation of foreign exchange rates is an effective way, but it must not disturb the economy."

Referring to impact of the yen rate hike on the Japanese economy, Utsumi stresses that "the negative aspect of the yen rate hike is not the level of the exchange rates, but the instability of the market." However, he adds: "The yen rate hike will eventually make the Japanese economy stronger." Asked if the G-7 nations are ready to take joint action to prevent further increases in the yen rate, he says: "I think the G-7 nations are ready to jointly cope with such occasions."

Regarding Japan's trade surplus, Utsumi states: "Frankly speaking, I think it is difficult to justify Japan's trade surplus in the international community. The best way to redress the trade surplus is to appropriately manage economic policies so the domestic market grows." As a tangible measure, he stresses the need for early enactment of the fiscal 1993 budget.

Utsumi notes that the trade imbalance with the U.S. cannot be settled by unilateral Japanese efforts. He states: "It is funny that bilateral talks between Japan and the United States focus only on Japan's surplus. The trade deficits of the United States are the reverse side of the imbalance, and the United States does have the problem of its deficit." He continues: "On that ground, Japan is supposed to accelerate expansion and liberalization of the domestic market. Since the United States has already announced its plan to reform the nation's economic structure, we intend to watch how U.S. leaders bring about the plan."

In response to a question about the Clinton administration's pressures on Japan, he stresses the need for Japan's initiative in easing trade frictions: "Japan must get rid of its habit of talking about anti-Japan pressures and encirclement by foreign nations. To get the Japanese economy on the right track, this is the most important point."

Utsumi then discusses measures for restoring the economy to comply with international demands for Japan to decrease its trade surplus. He says Japanese entrepreneurs and investors should overcome their prudent stance toward new business projects. In conclusion, he says that every necessary economic stimulus measure should be taken hereafter, but "these measures must not become roots of future troubles." The program concludes at 0059 GMT.

Finance Minister on Tax Talks, Reduced Economic Growth

OW0203022993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0145 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 2 KYODO—Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi said Tuesday [2 March] he will watch developments in talks among the ruling and opposition parties on calls for a cut in income tax, but said he still does not favor such a cut. He said he hopes to see the issue resolved so that the Diet can soon pass the draft budget for fiscal 1993, starting on April 1.

Talks on the tax issue are to resume later Tuesday among the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and opposition parties, which want a tax reduction included in a further pump-priming package following the passage of the budget. The draft could be approved by the House of Representatives Budget Committee as early as this Friday.

Hayashi also told reporters after a cabinet meeting that he still expects the nation's economy to grow by 1.6 percent in the current fiscal year, ending March 31, but he wants to see the economic data for February, since a "steep upward curve" is required given the sluggishness of growth earlier in this fiscal year. The expected growth has been revised downward by the government to the 1.6 percent figure from its earlier projection of 3.5 percent.

Government labor statistics released Tuesday showed that the nation's unemployment rate in January stood at 2.3 percent, down 0.1 percentage point from December, while the ratio of job offers to seekers was 0.93, staying below the parity line of 1.00 for the fourth consecutive month. The figure means there were 93 job offers for every 100 people looking for work.

Hayashi, citing the slight improvement in the jobless rate, said he expects conditions to gradually improve as effects appear of the increase in public works investment under the government's 10.7 trillion yen stimulus package.

The finance minister refrained from directly commenting on the latest developments in the currency exchange market, but repeated that rates ought to reflect economic fundamentals and that Japan will take adequate measures as necessary, keeping in close touch with other countries.

The dollar opened higher in Tokyo on Tuesday at 118.72 yen, up 0.29 yen from Monday's close. The U.S. currency hit a record intraday low in Tokyo of 116.30 yen on February 23. Speculative moves caused the dollar to fluctuate wildly in February, between the record low and 125.25 yen.

LDP's Kajiyama on General Elections, Tax Reduction

OW0203091393 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 28 Feb 93

[From the "NHK News" program]

[Text] Speaking at a news conference in Aomori today, Seiroku Kajiyama, secretary general of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], dismissed the possibility of the government dissolving the House of Representatives to hold general elections before the July Tokyo summit. He said: The government currently has to strive for reviving the Japanese economy and regaining public trust in politics. It is now making an all-out effort to reinvigorate the economy prior to the summit. Thus, we do not have leeway to dissolve the lower house to hold general elections before the summit. Also, holding general elections soon after the summit is not under consideration. In this way, Kajiyama ruled out general elections before the July Tokyo summit.

Commenting on the revised budget bill submitted by the Social Democratic Party of Japan, Komeito, and the Democratic Socialist Party to demand a drastic reduction in income taxes, Kajiyama stressed the need to adopt the 1993 budget bill before the end of this fiscal year and added: It is difficult to revise the government bill right away. But we will see what we can do while taking the opposition demand into consideration. In this way, he indicated the LDP would negotiate in earnest with the opposition camp over the tax reduction issue.

North Korea

Cameroonian Delegation Begins DPRK Visit

Arrives 27 Feb

SK2802084993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0814 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] Pyongyang, February 28 (KCNA)—A Cameroonian government delegation led by Francis Nkwain, delegate minister of the minister of external relations, arrived here by air Saturday.

It was met at the airport by Kang Sok-chu, first vice-minister of Foreign Affairs, and other officials concerned.

Holds Talks With WPK

SK0103050293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0419 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 1 (KCNA)—Talks between government delegations of Korea and Cameroon were held here Sunday.

Present at the talks on the Korean side were First Vice-minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Sok-chu and officials concerned and on the opposite side was the delegation headed by Francis Nkwain, delegate minister of the minister of external relations.

Francis Nkwain conveyed to the head of the Korean side greetings to the great leader His Excellency President Kim Il-song and the dear leader His Excellency Kim Chong-il extended by the Cameroonian president.

At the talks, the sides exchanged views on the problem of further developing the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries and on international issues of common concern.

Kim Yong-nam, vice-premier and foreign minister, on February 28 met and conversed with the Cameroonian Government delegation in a friendly atmosphere.

Intergovernment Meet Held

SK0203050193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0421 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 2 (KCNA)—The third meeting of the inter-governmental combined committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Cameroon was held in Pyongyang from February 28 to March 1.

Present there were Vice-chairman of the State External Economic Affairs Commission Han Su-kil and officials concerned and the members of the Cameroonian Government delegation headed by delegate minister of the minister of external relations Francis Nkwain.

Documents on cooperation in the economy, science and technology between the two countries were adopted at the meeting.

Received by Kim Il-song

SK0203094093 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song received a Cameroonian Government delegation. The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song on March 1 received the visiting Cameroonian Government delegation led by Francis Nkwain, Republic of Cameroon minister delegated in the Ministry of External Relations.

Attending the meeting were Kim Yong-nam, vice premier and foreign minister; Vice Foreign Minister Kim Yong-il; and Han Su-kil, vice chairman of the External Economic Committee.

Etian Elain-Eile, Republic of Cameroon ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the DPRK, and its embassy officials were also present at the meeting.

The head delegate conveyed a personal message from His Excellency President of the Republic of Cameroon Paul Biya to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song at the meeting.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song conversed with the guests in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

WPK Delegation Concludes Visit to Cambodia

Meets Heng Samrin 27 Feb

SK0203045593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0419 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 2 (KCNA)—Heng Samrin, honorary chairman of the Central Committee of the People's Party of Cambodia [PPC] and president of the State Council of Cambodia, met with a delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] led by Yi Chong-ok, Politburo member of the Central Committee of the WPK and vice-president, on February 27.

After elaborating on the present peace process in Cambodia, he said that the PPC and the Cambodian Government and people highly estimate the brilliant victories the Korean people have won in socialist construction by applying the chuche idea under the wise guidance of the great leader His Excellency Generalissimo Kim Il-song and the dear leader His Excellency Marshal Kim Chong-il.

He said that the desire of the Korean people for the reunification of the country must be realised and expressed full support to the Korean people in their struggle for it.

Returns From Cambodia

SK0103160193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1535 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 1 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] headed by Politburo member of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea and Vice-President Yi Chong-ok returned home today after visiting Cambodia.

It was met at the airport by alternate Poliburo member and Secretary of the C.C., WPK Choe Tae-pok, Vice-director of a department of the party central committee Kim Hyong-u, other officials concerned and Chinese Ambassador to Korea Zheng Yi.

Japanese Group Urges Early Normalization of Ties

SK0203060793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2309 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 1 (KCNA)—Representatives of the Aichii prefectural people's council for the promotion of normalisation of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations called at the Foreign Ministry of Japan on February 16 to urge the government to strive for an early normalisation of diplomatic relations between Japan and Korea, according to a report of the Korean News Service from Tokyo.

The request action was attended by Mutsuro Kimura, director of the secretariat of the prefectural people's council and other representatives, accompanied by Liberal-Democratic member of the House of Representatives Toichiro Kuno, acting chairman of the prefectural people's council, Social-Democratic member of the House of Representatives Minoru Kawashima, advisor to the council, and Komei member of the House of Councillors Kiyohiro Aaki.

The representatives handed a request addressed to the foreign minister to an official concerned of the Foreign Ministry.

The request urged the promotion of negotiations based on the position of the three-party joint declaration, an apology and compensation for the misfortunes and disasters inflicted by Japan upon the Korean people in the colonial and post-war period and an early resumption of Japan-DPRK negotiations.

On the same day, representatives of the Sano Society for Japan-Korea exchange in Tochigi Prefecture conducted a request action against the government authorities.

Education Delegation Leaves for China Visit

SK2702104593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1035 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Pyongyang, February 27 (KCNA)—A delegation of the State Education Commission led by Song Chae-song, first vice-minister of higher education, left here today for a visit to China.

It was seen off at the airport by vice-chairman of the commission Yo Won-ku and an official of the Chinese Embassy here.

Kim Il-song Sends Message to Libya's al-Qadhdhafi

SK0103150393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1122 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 1 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today sent a message of greetings to Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great September First Revolution of the great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah on the 16th anniversary of the proclamaton of the Jamahiriyah in Libya. In the message president Kim Il-song wished Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and his people greater sucess in their efforts to defend the dignity and sovereignty of the country and build a prosperous new society.

And he expressed the belief that the excellent relations of friendship and cooperaion between the two peoples would continue to strengthen and develop.

SPA Delegation Meets Syrian Vice President

SK0103100793 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Our country's Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] delegation led by SPA Chairman Yang Hyong-sop met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam on 25 February.

At the meeting, the vice president asked the head of the delegation to convey his heartfelt greetings of longevity to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and dear leader Comrade Kim Chong- il.

Prior to this meeting, on 22 February the delegation met with Mahmud al-Zu'bi, prime minister of this country. At the meeting, the prime minister extended his warm greetings to the great president Comrade Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il. He mentioned developing relations between Syria and the DPRK and stressed that he will invariably support the DPRK's position toward reunification of the fatherland.

On the same day, the delegation met with 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Renaissance Party of Syria, and held conversations with him in a friendly atmosphere.

The delegation held talks with a delegation of the Syrian People's Council on 20 February. Presented at the meeting were Chairman Yang Hyong-sop, members of the SPA delegation, and our country's ambassador from our side, and Speaker of the People's Council 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, Syrian ambassador to our country, and functionaries concerned from Syria's side. Talks were held in a friendly atmosphere. The delegation were invited to a banquet arranged by the speaker of the Syrian People's Council on the same day.

During the stay in Syria, the delegation visited various places in Aleppo, (Kuweitra), and Homs. The delegation left Damascus on 26 February after the visit to Syria.

The speaker of the Syrian People's Council, functionaries concerned, our country's ambassador to this country, and embassy staff saw off the delegation at the airport.

Kaesong Economic Delegation Returns From Iran

SK0103101793 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] A Kaesong Municipal Friendship delegation led by Pak Chong-sik, vice chairman of Kaesong Municipal Administrative and Economic Guidance Committee, who visited Iran, flew home by plan on 27 February.

DPRK-Mongolian Friendship Group Returns Home

SK0103100993 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] A DPRK-Mongolian Friendship Association delegation led by its vice chairman Chon Yon-hyop, vice chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, who visited Mongolia, flew home by plane on 17 February.

DPRK Asks Czech Cease-Fire Observers To Leave

OW2802033993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0947 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Beijing, Feb. 27 KYODO—North Korea has ordered four Czech military officers stationed in the northern part of the demilitarized zone as cease-fire monitors to leave by March 10, East European diplomatic sources in Pyongyang said Saturday [27 February]. The sources said the North Korean Government notified the Czech Embassy in Pyongyang of the order January 12 and has effectively put the four observers under "house arrest."

The four Czechs are part of an international cease-fire monitoring team established in July 1953, when the United States, China, and North and South Korea signed an agreement to end three years of warfare on the Korean peninsula. The team comprises representatives of four neutral nations of the former Czechoslovakia, Poland, Switzerland and Sweden. The delegates of former Czechoslovakia and Poland have been stationed in the northern part of the demilitarized zone, while those of Switzerland and Sweden took the southern part. Pyongyang reportedly insisted the Czechs had no right to station military observers in lieu of the former Czechoslovakia, which ended its 74-year existence at midnight December 31.

North Korea watchers in Beijing say Pyongyang is furious about the pro-South Korean stand taken by the former Czechoslovakia and Poland since the collapse of their respective communist governments, and ultimately hopes to dissolve the international cease-fire monitoring team. Although Switzerland, Sweden and Poland voiced opposition to the deportation order, North Korean Government officials recently met the Polish ambassador to North Korea to reproach the three countries for intervening in North Korea's internal affairs, the sources said. They said the four Czech cease-fire observers are not allowed outside their accommodation a few kilometers from the border truce hamlet of Panmunjom.

According to Czech Embassy officials in Pyongyang, Prague has no intention to clinging to its presence in North Korea. The makeup of the international team requires unanimous consent from the United States, China, and North and South Korea, which signed the 1953 cease-fire accord.

NODONG SINMUN: Team Spirit Threatens Asian Peace

SK0203112393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1040 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 2 (KCNA)—The "Team Spirit" joint military exercises resumed by the United States and the South Korean authorities pose a grave threat not only to peace of Korea but also to peace and security of the world, says NODONG SINMUN in an article today.

If the United States desperately pursue policies of aggression and war on the Korean peninsula, ignoring the desire of the world's peaceloving people for peace, it will face a stern denunciation, branded as the enemy of peace, the author of the article says, and continues:

The "Team Spirit" war game is a military lever for the execution of the U.S. regional strategy.

At present, the United States is directing its attack to the Asia-Pacific region in executing its regional strategy. This region abounds in workforce and material resources and is a vast market. It is the Korean peninsula that the United States is using as a military bridgehead to gratify its wild ambition to dominate this region.

South Korea is the only colony and military base of the United States in the Asian continent.

Huge U.S. armed forces are massed in and around South Korea. Taking advantage of this, the United States seeks to unleash a war of aggression against the DPRK with South Korea as the springboard and, furthermore, satisfy its desire to dominate other Asian countries.

The "Team Spirit" manoeuvres gravely threaten peace in Asia and the rest of the world also because they are a nuclear war rehearsal.

The United States is mobilising all kinds of nuclear weapons, their delivery means and special nuclear units in the "Team Spirit". In recent years, even the E-4BS, a special nuclear war commanding plane, was flown in this war game.

These facts predict that a war which breaks out in Korea would immediately develop into a nuclear war and, in this case, other countries would also suffer serious nuclear damages.

The U.S. authorities must take a decision to stop the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises, if they mean when they talk about "peace" so often.

Government Issues Memo on Reunification Efforts

SK0103121893 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 28 Feb 93

[DPRK Government "Memorandum" issued in Pyongyang on 28 February—read by announcer]

[Text] The Efforts of the Republic's Government To Achieve National Reunification Based on the Principle of National Independence:

One year has passed since the North-South agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, and cooperation and exchange and the joint declaration on denuclearization of the Korean peninsula were adopted and effectuated. These historic documents gave the hope and expectations for Korea's reunification to all of the Korean people and peaceloving people of the world.

However, the situation developed for the past one year since the documents of agreement between the North and the South were effectuated illustrates that the agreements reached between the North and the South cannot be satisfactorily implemented, no matter how good they may be, if a dialogue partner takes the road of confrontation with fellow countrymen without a sense of independence and by following outside forces.

Moreover, the United States and the South Korean authorities resumed the Team Spirit joint military exercise against us and intensified unjust pressure on us for nuclear inspections. As the result, dialogue which made satisfactory progress has been completely frozen [tonggyol toeda] and the implementation of documents of agreement was blocked. Thus, the situation on the Korean peninsula has been led to an extreme pitch of strain.

Recognizing it necessary to elucidate the sincere efforts it made to achieve reunification based on the principle of national independence from the 1970's when a new turning point was registered in the reunification movement, the DPRK Government issues this memorandum in connection with the prevailing situation for the purpose of giving help in understanding the course of peace and reunification on the Korean peninsula.

1. Achievement of Reunification Based on the Principle of National Independence.

In the 1970's, the great leader President Kim Il-song embodied the idea of reunification based on national independence and put forward the three principles of national reunification on independence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity. Based on this, the North and the South announced the 4 July joint statement. Thus, the chuche-based joint national program for reunification has been provided, and five-point policies for national reunification and plans for independent, just and fair national reunification advanced by the Republic's Government for implementation of this program have been presented. The 1970's is a historic annal during which the reunification movement was actively carried out.

With the beginning of the 1970's, the situation created at home and abroad in connection with the Korean issue was very complex. At that time, then U.S. President Nixon issued the Guam Declaration in August 1969. Following this in February 1970, he put forward the so-called Nixon Doctrine in a letter to Congress.

The United States brought about the victory-over-communists policy on the Korean peninsula according to its peace strategy based on Nixon Doctrine, and made a policy change in a bid to perpetuate and legalize Korea's division. The situation at that time demanded that the decisive steps be worked out to solve the question of Korea's reunification based on the principle of national independence and with strength of the Korean people themselves.

On 6 August 1971, the respected leader President Kim Il-song put forward a new, broad-range proposal for political negotiations between all political parties, including the Democratic-Republican Party, then the ruling party in South Korea, all public organizations, and individual figures in the North and the South. The North-South negotiation proposal enjoyed active support and welcome from the peaceloving people of the world, not to mention all the Korean people in the North and the South.

Since the public opinion supporting the North-South negotiation proposal was stirred up, the South Korean authorities, which refused all contacts, responded to this in the form of proposal for contact between Red Cross organizations in the North and the South.

Finally in September 1971, preliminary talks for the North-South Red Cross talks were convened. The Republic's Government made all patient efforts to successfully push head with the Red Cross talks and to upgrade the level of dialogue by realizing high-level talks between the two authorities through channels of the Red Cross talks. As the result of this, high-level political talks between the North and the South were held in Pyongyang and Seoul in May and June 1972. The talks directly held between the two authorities in the North and the South for the first time in history of division served as an important channel enabling us to accelerate the reunification process.

On 3 May 1972, the respected leader President Kim Il-song received the delegation of the South side which came to Pyongyang to attend the North-South high-level political talks. He clarified the three principles of national reunification on independence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity.

The three principles of national reunification were so just and fair that even the South Korean authorities had to agree with them. Thus, on 4 July 1972, the historic joint statement based on the three principles of national reunification was announced. Through this joint statement, the North and the South confirmed and declared the three principles of national reunification at home and abroad as the basic guideline of reunification. With the announcement of the 4 July joint statement, our people came to have one reunification program for the first time since the division of the nation. In November 1972, the North-South coordination committee was organized and was put into operation as a standing organization for the solution of the reunification question according to the agreement in the 4 July joint statement.

In three rounds of talks of the North-South coordination committee, we made reasonable proposals for multilateral collaboration and for elimination of military tensions. The proposals included the issue for organizing five subcommittees of politics, economy, culture, military and diplomatic affairs, as standing joint organizations; the issue for realizing disarmament by suspending arms expansion, for forcing U.S. troops to withdraw and for concluding a peace treaty; and the issue for holding broad range political consultative talks between each political party, public organization, and individual figure of the North and the South, in addition to the work of the coordination committee.

However, the South side, claiming that trust was not created between the North and the South, rejected all proposals of our side and stubbornly insisted on the step-by-step reunification theory [tangyejok tongillon]. In fact, the step-by-step reunification theory was a pretext of nurturing real power [sillyogul paeyang hada] and another version of theory on reunification through victory over communists.

The South Korean authorities applied delaying tactics at the dialogue table. Outside the hall of dialogue, they adhered to the policy of dependence on outside forces, thus going against the three principles of national reunification that they pledged before the nation.

Moreover, they fabricated the Yusin system ["revitalization" system under Pak Chong-hui]—the system for division—and even took practical steps for the perpetuation of the nation's division. On 23 June 1973, the person in authority in South Korea announced a so-called special statement and declared the two-Korea policy intended to perpetuate the nation's division.

Because of this, grave obstacles were created on the road of national reunification and our people fell into the danger of permanent division.

The situation at that time demanded that new steps be worked out to rescue the nation and people from the crisis of permanent division and to expedite the reunification.

The respected leader President Kim Il-song expounded the five-point policies for national reunification. The basic contents of these policies were: The elimination of the military confrontation between the North and the South; the easing of tensions; the realization of multilateral collaboration and exchanges; the convocation of a great national conference composed of people from various social strata and representatives of each political party and public organization; the implementation of a confederal system under a single national title; and entrance into the United Nations under one country name.

It was a new epoch-making formula to reunify the country by the Koreans' own efforts in keeping with the trend of the international situation toward detente. No sooner had the five-point policy been published than it evoked warm welcome and support from our nation and the peaceloving people of the world. The validity and vitality of the policies and proposals for national reunification advanced by the Republic's Government were clearly proved at UN General Assembly sessions.

A DPRK delegation was invited without any conditions to the 28th session of the UN General Assembly in 1973 and participated in the discussion of the Korean question for the first time in history. The session rejected the motion of the simultaneous entry of two Koreas into the United Nations sponsored by the United States and other Western countries, reconfirmed the three principles of national reunification—independence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity—and adopted a resolution on dissolving the UN Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea [UNCURK] which had been used as a tool for interference in the Korean question.

With the resolution to dissolve the UNCURK at the 28th session of the UN General Assembly, an end was brought to UNCURK's act of interfering in Korea's domestic affairs, and annual report commotions by the UNCURK, which ridiculed and infringed on the Korean people's national dignity and authority, were also suspended. The 30th UN General Assembly, accepting the reunification proposal of the Republic's Government, adopted with the approval of an overwhelming majority a resolution proposed by 43 countries on replacing the armistice agreement with a peace agreement and withdrawing foreign troops from South Korea. In fact, passage of the joint resolution of 43 countries at the 30th UN General Assembly meant a declaration of invalidity for all illegal resolutions legalizing the U.S. troops' occupation of South Korea, which had in the past been adopted at the United Nations at the United States' forcible demand.

The respected leader President Kim Il-song reiterated the proposal for wide-range dialogues, a dialogue with the United States, and dialogues with the South Korean authorities and political parties in his report at a national meeting on 9 September 1978 marking the 30th anniversary of the DPRK's founding when the United States and the South Korean authorities were more actively working to push ahead with the policy of two Koreas.

Thanks to the proposal of the Republic's Government to implement this negotiation plan, contact between liaison officials from the North and the South to form a preparatory committee for national reunification began from February 1979. From the outset of the contacts between North and South liaison officials, the South side dragged on time while creating artificial difficulties, and did not even appear at the fourth round of talks. As a result, the talks were finally ruptured. In the 1970's, North-South dialogue could not attain its purpose, but a definite condition was created for opening a new phase in national reunification with the North and the South defining the three principles of national reunification as the common principles of reunification.

2. Advancement of the Reunification Program:

The 1980's was a historic era during which the proposal for founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo [DCRK] was put forward as a great reunification program representing the three principles of national reunification, a practical proposal for peace and disarmament to realize it was put forward and a turn was heralded in North-South high-level talks. With the beginning of the 1980's, the United States fabricated a new military regime in South Korea, and actively pushed ahead with the policy of two Koreas which it failed to realize in the 1970s.

The South Korean authorities, claiming that there is no justification for reunification with the growing heterogeneity of the people, openly put forward a so-called theory on the impossibility of reunification and the theory on reunification in the 21st century. Therefore, the DPRK Government had to decisively check the two Koreas policy of the splittists and to open a new vital road to accomplish the cause of reunification.

The respected leader President Kim Il-song advanced a new program of reunifying the country by means of founding a confederal republic at the Sixth Congress of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] held in October 1980. The great leader President Kim Il-song has taught: Our party holds that the country should be reunified by founding a confederal republic through the establishment of a unified national government on condition that the North and the South recognize and tolerate each other's ideas and social systems, a government in which the two sides are represented on an equal footing and under which they exercise regional autonomy respectively with equal rights and duties.

The main idea of the proposal for reunification through confederation is this: The confederal government should be formed in such a manner that a supreme national confederal assembly with an equal number of representatives from the North and the South and an appropriate number of representatives of overseas nationals is formed and a confederal standing committee is organized in this assembly. Its function should be to discuss and decide on questions of common concern related to the interests of the country and the nation as a whole. The confederal state should be called the DCRK after the name of a unified state that once existed in Korea, reflecting the common political idea of the North and the South. The character of the confederation should be peaceloving, nonaligned, and neutral.

The direction of domestic and foreign policies to be implemented by the confederal state has been more concretely defined through the 10-point policies. Indeed, this is a great program of national reunification which should make it possible to solve the reunification problem peacefully and fairly through the short and smooth path, neither side conquering the other or being conquered. Under the condition that there have been different ideas and systems in the North and the South for a long time and that a different ideology dominates each side, one side's regarding its ideas and system as absolute ones or enforcing them on other side are the same as the attempt to realize the reunification through absorption by means of strength.

Realizing reunification in a repressive manner will cause another confrontation and clash. Therefore, the North and the South must select the method which can be accepted by all members of the nation whose ideas and political ideologies are different and which can equally evoke the sympathy of neighboring countries. This method is to establish an independent, neutral, democratic, and peaceloving confederal state, which does not join any military bloc nor becomes a satellite nation of any other country, by leaving intact the ideologies and systems presently existing in the North and the South.

The DPRK Government repeatedly proposed reasonable and practical measures to promote reunification through confederation and made persevering efforts to carry them into effect. The Republic's Government proposed to convene a preliminary meeting to organize a preparatory committee as a measure to realize the proposal for founding of the DCRK in November 1980. The Republic's Government put forward a proposal to call a conference for the promotion of national reunification in August 1981 to discuss reunification proposals including the proposal for founding the DCRK and called for the convocation of a joint meeting of 100 politicians in February 1982.

However, the South Korean authorities did not respond to the proposals of our Republic's Government for talks. The South Korean side, to counter our proposals, brought forward a formula of national reconciliation and democratic unification on 22 January 1982. The so-called formula brought forward by the South Korean authorities turned out to be nothing but a scheme to legalize and freeze division. Reiterating the proposal for reunification through confederation in his speech at the banquet arranged in September 1983 in celebration of the 35th founding anniversary of the DPRK, the respected leader President Kim Il-song proposed the method of operating the confederation government, in other words, the supreme national confederal assembly and the confederal standing committee, the unified government of the confederal state, should elect their co-chairmen from the North and the South and let them chair the bodies alternately.

The proposal for founding the DCRK is the most realistic, just and fair reunification program which correctly represents the concrete realities in which different systems exist in the North and the South of our country and each side is dominated by an ideology different from the other. This proposal can be accepted by anyone. Therefore, this proposal evoked great repercussions as soon as it was made public to the world. It aroused greater support and sympathy with each passing day.

A world meeting was held with the participation of representatives from 80 countries and 14 international organizations in Algeria in March 1981 to support the proposal for founding the DCRK. In addition, a conference of governments in Africa was held in Togo in July 1982 with participation of delegations and delegates from 25 countries. People from all walks of life in more than 100 countries numbering as many as 1.6 billion joined the signature campaign. From the mid 1980's, the United States adhered to tactics of crushing one by one the small nations, which were advancing toward independence, behind the curtains of disarmament.

The U.S. Administration brought into South Korea on a large scale ultramodern lethal weapons including nuclear weapons in accordance with the policy of attaching importance to Asia. Thus, it turned South Korea into the largest nuclear arsenal in the Far East and a forward base for nuclear war. Meanwhile, the South Korean authorities further accelerated the development of nuclear weapons. Moreover, the United States and the South Korean authorities turned the Team Spirit joint military exercise, which they conducted every year from 1976, into a large-scale war exercise simulating a modern full-scale war and nuclear war. It was raised as a practical issue to take decisive measures to safeguard peace by averting the danger of a nuclear war and realizing disarmament on the Korean peninsula and create preconditions for a peaceful reunification.

A joint meeting of the Central People's Committee [CPC] and the standing committee of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] of the DPRK, convened on 10 January 1984, proposed to have tripartite talks involving the North and the South of Korea and the United States, to sign there a peace agreement between the DPRK and the United States, and to adopt a nonaggression declaration between the North and the South. This proposal was conveyed in a letter to the U.S. Government and the Seoul authorities through relevant channels. The U.S. authorities also made proposals for tripartite negotiations on many occasions. In December 1983, President Reagan expressed readiness to hold tripartite talks on the condition that South Korea participate on an equal footing.

When the DPRK Government proposed tripartite talks aimed at actually removing military confrontation on the Korean peninsula, the U.S. authorities opposed it, claiming that North-South talks should be held first and it is desirable to have four-way talks. The Republic's Government continued to make patient efforts to relax the situation on the Korean peninsula. With a view to easing the strained relations between the North and the South, through a humanitarian and compatriotic measure, the Republic's Government sent 50,000 soms [one som equals 4.9629 bushels] of rice, 100,000 tons of cement, 500,000 meters of textiles, and a large quantity of medicines to the flood victims of South Korea in September 1984. After this, talks between the North and the South were resumed in economic, Red Cross, sports, and other fields and art troupes and home-visiting groups were exchanged in September 1985 for the first time since the division.

Then, the DPRK Government took positive steps to realize arms cuts, the main factor in dispelling the political and military confrontation on the Korean peninsula. In the hope of removing the danger of a nuclear war, the Republic's Government released a statement on 23 June 1986 containing a new proposal for the conversion of the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone. This proposal stipulates that one will not test, produce, stockpile, or introduce nuclear weapons; one will not allow the establishment of military bases including nuclear bases in foreign countries; and one will not permit the passage of foreign nuclear weapons in one's own territory, territorial air, or territorial waters.

In particular, this proposal demanded that the United States suspend introduction of nuclear weapons, completely withdraw nuclear weapons, which were already brought in, in a phased manner, and take steps to cancel all operational plans pertaining to the use of nuclear weapons on the Korean peninsula. In a statement issued on 23 July 1987, the Republic's Government put forward a five-point proposal for a drastic phased arms reduction.

This arms reduction proposal stipulates that the North and the South will reduce armed forces in three phases and will maintain less than 100,000 troops each from 1992; U.S. troops in South Korea will be withdrawn in a phased manner; U.S. troops will be completely withdrawn from South Korea when armed forces of the North and the South are reduced to less than 100,000; the process of arms reduction will be verified and a neutral nations' surveillance corps will be stationed in the Demilitarized Zone in the Military Demarcation Line; multinational negotiations for arms reduction will be held among the North, the South, and the United States to discuss above-stated issues; and representatives of member states of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission will participate in these negotiations as observers.

Following the proposal for phased arms cut, the Republic's Government took a step on 30 July 1987 to unilaterally reduce the Army by 100,000 men. This arms reduction proposal was put into a more concrete and systematic form by the four principles of peace and a peace package on 7 November 1988 and a drastic arms cut proposal on 31 May 1990. The efforts of the DPRK Government to pave the way of national reunification in the 1980's inspired all of the Korean people with the firm belief that they could surely achieve national reunification in the 1990's.

3. Annals of Reunification:

It is intolerable both in view of national independence and in view of the trend of the development of the international situation that the nation's division which began in the 1940's continues in the 1990's. It is tolerable to leave the question of integrating the different systems in the North and the South into one to posterity to solve gradually and smoothly. But it must not be delayed any longer to establish one unified state of the same nation, transcending the difference in ideology and system.

In view of this, the respected leader President Kim Il-song indicated the great principle of reunifying the country by the confederacy formula based on one nation, one state, two systems, and two governments and then, with a view to achieving without much difficulty a nationwide agreement on the proposal for founding the DCRK, proposed to complete reunification through confederacy step by step in such a manner as to grant greater powers to the autonomous governments of the confederal republic for the time being and increase the functions of the central government in the future.

This is a flexible proposal which put various opinions pertaining to the reunification issue into full consideration. This proceeds from the sincere desire to achieve national reunification in the 1990's without fail by defining the reunification formula at an early date by the North and the South. The Republic's Government proposed North-South high-level political and military talks in December 1986 in order to promote the process of reunification.

Our proposal for talks was realized only in February 1989, and the first full-dress North-South high-level talks were held in September 1990 after eighth rounds of preliminary talks. At the sixth North-South high-level talks, the agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, and cooperation and exchange between the North and the South, and a joint declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula were effectuated. This was a great victory won in the course of the nationwide struggle to implement the three principles of national reunification and is a great fruition of the principle of national independence and of the line of great national unity which the Republic's Government consistently maintained.

The North-South agreement, together with the 4 July joint statement, is a program for national reunification reflecting our people's desire for reunification and the trend of the present situation toward independence and peace. After effectuation of the historic agreements, dialogues between the North and the South were activated and, in this course, annexed agreements in the reconciliation, military, economic, and social domains were adopted and effectuated and joint committees were formed. Thus, the sides entered the stage of negotiations for carrying the agreements into practice.

Thus, the entire nation predicts with great hope and expectation that reunification will be achieved in the near future. At this moment, the United States and South Korea have decided to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise which had been discontinued. They are comprehensively deploying armed forces on the Korean peninsula. For this reason, the North-South dialogues, which had developed into a higher level, have been totally suspended. North-South relations are turning to the starting point of confrontation. The North-South dialogues and the reunification process show that one side to the dialogue may make a good proposal and make all efforts possible to embody the principle of national independence, but if a dialogue partner resorts to flunkeyist act by depending on outside forces it is impossible to fully resolve any problem.

If peace is to be guaranteed and the reunification process is to be continuously promoted on the Korean peninsula, the following problems must be resolved first of all under the present condition: First, the United States and the South Korean authorities must give up the criminal Team Spirit joint military exercises. Second, the South Korean authorities must take the road of national reunification on the principle of national independence. The reunification desired by the Korean people is one for achieving national independence, not one for living shackled to others. Third, the United States must renounce its antiquated DPRK policy of the cold war era. Presenting a military threat to the DPRK, putting economic pressure on the DPRK, and adhering to a unilateral policy are not an attitude to clear away the consequences of the cold war.

In particular, the United States is increasing the unreasonable pressure of special inspections on our military facilities by using the International Atomic Energy Agency. This is a part of the moves to lead the situation on the Korean peninsula to an extreme and destroy our system. The DPRK is ready to cope with any form of pressure by the imperialists and their stooges. Stumbling blocks and obstacles still stand in the way of reunification. The cause of reunification of the DPRK people, who are advancing based on the principle of national independence, will gain a victory without failure.

By achieving the reunification of the country through great unity in the 1990s without fail, the entire Korean people will make all efforts to contribute to the cause of peace in Asia and the rest of the world. The DPRK Government expresses the hope that the governments and peoples of all countries who love peace and progress will not only pay deep attention to the acute situation prevailing on the Korean peninsula, but also extend full support and encouragement to our just struggle for promoting the process of peace and reunification.

28 February 1993, Pyongyang

Revolutionaries Urged To Cherish Chuche Faith

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[NODONG SINMUN 26 February special article: "The Chuche-based Faith Is a Noble Ideological and Mental Trait of Genuine Revolutionaries"]

[Text] An important issue in further glorifying our socialism by smashing various challenges and hindrances of the imperialists and reactionaries is to make all party members and workers more deeply cherish the chuche-based faith.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has indicated: We should not allow even a slight degree of doctrinism and flunkeyism to be expressed but should solve all problems according to our people's demand and to the realities in our country by cherishing the chuche-based faith.

The chuche-based faith is a firm ideological determination and resolution to think about and judge all problems with one's own independent awareness and to resolve them with one's own strength in compliance with one's own realities. In essence, this faith is unswerving conviction in the justness of ideas, lines, and policies of the party and the leader, and it is a rock-firm will to carry out the revolution in our own manner under any difficult and complex circumstances.

The loyalty of revolutionaries to the party and the revolution can be rock-firm and be displayed at a high stage only when they have such a chuche-based faith.

The chuche-based faith is a revolutionary faith which revolutionaries of our era should unfailingly cherish. In our era when the revolutionary struggle is being carried out with nation and state as a unit, the revolutionaries cannot victoriously advance the revolution unless they have chuche-based faith.

Whether one has chuche-based faith or not is an important yardstick in determining if one can become a genuine revolutionary. It is an essential demand for becoming a unswerving revolutionary fighter who tenaciously defends and protects and loyally upholds the party and the leader in order to cherish chuche-based faith deeply.

The revolutionary cause of the working class is the cause of the leader and the party. Without the leadership of the party and the leader, one cannot think of pioneering, advancing, and accomplishing the revolutionary struggle.

The destiny of the party and the leader is the very destiny of the revolution. Therefore, there is no greater revolutionary mission for a revolutionary than to defend and protect the party and the leader and to loyally uphold them.

For a revolutionary to invariably defend the party and the leader with his life and to give loyalty to them to the end under any adversity and trial, he should firmly believe in the justness of ideas and the cause of the party and the leader, and the inevitability of victory [sungniui pilyonsong]. To do this, he should deeply cherish the chuche-based faith.

Revolutionaries, whose chuche-based faith is thorough, defend and protect the party and the leader politically and ideologically with their lives by always cherishing a firm outlook on politics and principle. They do not contemplate even the slightest degree of concession and compromise over issues pertaining to the dignity of the party and the leader.

Regarding the party's line and policy as law and a supreme order, they unconditionally accept them without any excuse or pretext and will brilliantly accomplish them to the end by demonstrating endless dedication and sacrifice.

Thanks to such unswerving revolutionary fighters who share joy and pain, as well as destiny, with the party and the leader by entrusting them with all their destinies, the life of the revolutionary cause pioneered by the leader is to be firmly inherited without wavering even amid various trials and storms of history.

The lofty spirit of struggle and fierce revolutionary passion of the anti-Japanese revolutionary martyrs, the heroic fighters of the Fatherland Liberation War and forerunners in the era of great Chollima upsurges after the war, were demonstrated on the basis of chuche-based faith.

Because their chuche-based faith was thoroughgoing, the anti-Japanese revolutionary martyrs shouted loudly that they could see the victory of the revolution even if the enemy took their eyes out, and could brilliantly fulfill the revolutionary missions by making bombs with empty hands.

Because they had such faith, the heroic fighters on Wolmi Island could defend 50,000 enormous troops of the U.S. imperialists, and old women in Haesong and the working class in Kangson could staunchly defend the leader and our party when factionalists attacked the party after the war.

The chuche-based faith took deep root in the hearts of the genuine Korean communists during the early stage of our revolution. This root has been further consolidated through the arduous struggle of trials. Only when our party members and workers struggle by deeply cherishing such faith can they find a genuine path on which they can live forever as genuine fighters of the party and the leader. It is also an indispensable demand for becoming genuine patriots, who devotedly serve the nation and the people, to deeply cherish the chuche-based faith.

The revolution is a struggle to achieve the independent aspirations and demand of one's people. A genuine revolutionary is a very genuine patriot. For a revolutionary to remain truly faithful to the revolution and to serve the fatherland and people devotedly, he should cherish chuche-based faith. The chuche-based faith enables a revolutionary to think and implement everything by giving priority to the interests of his people and to resolve all problems based on the strength of his people and according to the concrete situation of his country, not through others' experience and will.

Therefore, those who have thoroughgoing chuche-based faith have a lofty national pride. Their rock-firm principle is to live a worthwhile life for the nation and the people.

The reality illustrates that the heroes of the time and genuine patriots, who performed exploits for the nation and the people and who are loved and respected by the people, come from revolutionaries with firm chuche-based faith.

The spirit of dedicated service and rock-firm will for self-reliance and arduous struggle of the unheralded heroes, who dedicated 10 years, 20 years, or their whole lives to scientific research by breaking through arduous roads, and of the genuine servants of the people who made all efforts to upgrade the people's living standard by upholding the intention of the great leader and our party, are lofty and noble traits which can be found only in the people whose chuche-based faith is thoroughgoing. All of this illustrates that the chuche-based faith is a mighty ideological and mental source enabling the revolutionaries of the era of chuche to fulfill their lofty missions and duties and to endlessly glorify the honor of the revolutionaries.

Deeply cherishing the chuche faith is an important demand for becoming a resolute defender of the struggle to protect and adhere to the popular mass-centered socialism of our own style. To firmly adhere to the socialism of our own style against the frenzied antisocialist maneuvers of the imperialists and the reactionaries today is an important task for our party members and working people.

Our socialism is the most superior popular mass-centered socialism embodying the chuche idea. Our people's happy lives and their hope for tomorrow are unthinkable apart from socialism. Socialism is the lifeline and life of our people. To resolutely adhere to our socialism—the noble gains of the revolution which our party members and working people won through arduous struggle and the home of their independent and creative lives—they should more firmly cherish the chuche faith, the faith in socialism.

In particular, under the condition where the imperialists and the reactionaries are viciously maneuvering to ideologically demolish our republic, the fortress of socialism, cherishing firm chuche faith is all the more important. When they lack the chuche faith, the faith in socialism, even the countries with powerful military and economic might collapse because they cannot withstand the reactionary offensive of the imperialists and the reactionaries. This is a stern truth we see in todays's reality.

The superiority of socialism is the superiority and might of ideology and faith. If the chuche faith takes firm root in the people's hearts, socialism will continue to demonstrate its invincible might no matter what desperate maneuvers the imperialists and the reactionaries engage in. Today the socialism of our own style is making a vigorous advance holding the revolutionary banner further aloft unshaken in the face of the violent challenge of the imperialists, which accelerates with each passing day, because our people's chuche faith is firm and unshakable. Our people will not abandon their revolutionary faith and principles to submit to others' threats and pressure, nor will they discard their own way to follow a different way even if others do. Our people have learned from the bottom of their hearts that our leader is the best, that our party is the best, and that our socialism embodying the chuche idea is the best. Because of this chuche faith, our people are bravely crushing the imperialists' antisocialist offensive with a revolutionary offensive under the chuche revolutionary banner in firm unity around the party and the leader.

As long as we have the popular masses who are in wholehearted unity with chuche faith around the party and the leader, our socialism will remain a fortress of socialism forever and victory will always be ours.

All the party members and working people should more deeply cherish the chuche faith and wage a vigorous struggle to implement the militant tasks the great leader set forth in his New Year's address so that they may protect and adhere to the socialism of our own style, adding further luster to it.

Daily Urges Reunification Under Independence Banner

SK0103132093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1057 GMT 1 Mar 93

["Let Us Promote National Reunification Under the Banner of National Independence"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 1 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today dedicates an editorial to the 74th anniversary of the March first popular uprising of 1919, which calls for promoting the national reunification under the banner of national independence. The editorial says the March first popular uprising was a nationwide anti-Japanese resistance to retake the territory and national sovereignty lost to the Japanese imperialists.

The desire of the Korean people for sovereignty and independence was finally realised by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, it says.

Recalling that the dark colonial rule by outside forces is still in force in South Korea, the other half of the country, the editorial says:

The most urgent task of our nation is to achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

The reunification, the desire of our nation, is one to realise the independence of the nation. The principle of national independence is the basic principle of national reunification on which we cannot budge even an inch.

The South Korean rulers must discard the old habit of dependence upon outside forces and turn to the stand of national independence and refrain from the criminal acts of joining big powers in the plot to fish in troubled waters at the sacrifice of the Korean nation.

The United States must renounce its anachronistic military occupation policy and take off its hands of domination and interference and withdraw all its nuclear weapons and aggression forces from South Korea. Particularly, it must discard such one-sided policy of the cold war era as threatening the DPRK militarily and putting economic pressure on it under unjustifiable pretexts and stop the brigandish "special inspection" clamor and the provocative "Team Spirit" nuclear war game at once.

Japan, too, must cease from its moves obstructing peace and the reunification of Korea.

Our people can never accept such unjust demand as "special inspection" which infringes on the dignity of the nation and the sovereignty of the country, our life and soul, and will have no other choice but to take a self-defensive countermeasure, should things like this continue to be imposed upon us.

KCNA Reviews 2 Mar Pyongyang Press

SK0203053093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0459 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 2 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a photo-illustrated report that the great leader president Kim Il-song received a Cameroonian Government delegation.

President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea received a gift from President Paul Biya of the Republic of Cameroon, says the press.

Printed in papers is a message of greetings sent by President Kim Il-song to Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great September First revolution of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah on the occasion of the 16th anniversary of the proclamation of the Jamahiriyah in Libya.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's immortal classical work "On the Fundamentals of Revolutionary Party Building" was brought out in booklet by the Afzal Publishing House of Pakistan, reports NODONG SINMUN.

Under the title "Comrade Kim Chong-il Is a Great Thinker and Theoretician and Iron-willed Brilliant Commander" the daily reports that the birthday of Comrade Kim Chong-il was grandly celebrated in foreign countries.

It is reported in the daily that foreigners, after seeing "Song of Singlehearted Unity Sung by the Young Vanguard", an evening of Pyongyang youth and students, which was held in celebration of the 8th Congress of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea, stressed Korean socialism is invincible as there are the commendable young people closely united around Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The Indian paper INDIAN TIMES published an article highly praising that the election of Comrade Kim Chong-il as the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army is the honor of Korea, says the daily.

The daily devotes much space to a political essay titled "We Maintain Theory of Ideology." The political essay says the chuche-based theory of ideology—this is a philosophy of great faith which can be maintained and applied in practice only by Comrade Kim Chong-il who is possessed of matchless extraordinary intelligence, wisdom and will of brilliant inheritance.

Seen in the press is a report about the overfulfilment of February assignments in different domains of the national economy including the Chollima steel complex, the Anju district coal mining complex, the Thaechon hydraulic power complex and the Kusong textile mill.

NODONG SINMUN carries a report that the president of the State Council of Cambodia met with a delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea and an account of the sojourn of the delegation in Cambodia.

The daily prints a joint statement which was published between the Workers' Party of Korea and the Bulgarian Communist Party (Marxists) and an account of the third meeting of the inter-governmental combined committee of Korea and Cameroon.

Carried in the press is a statement published by a spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry condemning the Japanese authorities for putting nuclear pressure on the DPRK together with the United States.

Given in the press is an account of a Pyongyang meeting held to mark the 74th anniversary of the march first popular uprising.

According to the press, South Korean students in Kwangju staged an anti-American demonstration against the "Team Spirit" war gamble and the U.S. carrier "Independence" and cruiser "Bunker Hill" entered the Sasebo port of Japan near the northern half of Korea to participate in the "Team Spirit 93".

NODONG SINMUN in a semi-monthly review of the South Korean situation says the "Sixth Republic" in South Korea committed indelible crimes before history and the nation.

The daily reports that the DPRK's proposal for reunification through confederacy is supported by different countries.

Clamours about "special inspection" of the DPRK raised by some officials of the International Atomic Energy Agency are under fire in foreign countries, says the press.

The world news columns of the press include reports that the Iranian president condemned the West for pursuing the double standard policy in international affairs, the Syrian president called for removing obstacles to peace in the Middle East and the Indian president called for rapidly developing the national economy.

The press dedicates articles to the 16th anniversary of the proclamation of the Jamahiriyah in Libya and observes the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Korea and Gambia.

NODONG SINMUN comes out with an article headlined "'Team Spirit' Is Grave Threat to Peace in Asia and the World."

Economic Sectors Said to Exceed Production Goals

SK0203114093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1009 GMT 2 Mar 93

["February Assignments of National Economy Overfulfilled"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 2 (KCNA)—The February plans were overfulfilled at different units of the national economy in Korea.

The coal mines under the Ministry of the Coal Industry hit the monthly targets at 104 percent in the gross industrial output value, 112 percent in the production value of daily necessities, 103 percent in capital tunnelling, 106 percent in preparatory tunnelling, 120 percent in slope tunnelling and 101 percent in coal output, taking the ministry as a whole.

Iron and steel works under the Ministry of the Metal Industry kept production on a high level, topping the rolled steel target by one percent, taking the ministry as a whole.

The Kim Chaek iron and steel complex which holds a big share in the nation's production of iron and steel had beaten the February targets at 107 percent in steel, 104 percent in pig iron and 110 percent in rolled steel by the 26th.

Industrial establishments under the state commission of the electronics and automation industry went beyond the February plans 1.4 percent in the gross industrial output value, 8.4 percent in silicic rectifier and 1 percent in tv sets.

The Ministries of the Local Industry, Natural Resources Development, and Forestry beat the February targets on all indices.

Besides, the monthly plans have been fulfilled ahead of schedule by light industrial units including the General Bureau of the Shoemaking Industry, the Pyongyang textile combine, the Kusong textile mill and many other units such as the Musan mining complex, the Taechon hydraulic power complex, the Tanchon smeltery and the Komusan cement factory.

South Korea

Germany's Kohl Continues Visit

Meets With Trade Minister

SK0203021893 Seoul YONHAP in English 2358 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 2 (YONHAP)—Trade and Industry Minister Kim Chol-su held a breakfast meeting Tuesday with German trade ministry officials and industrialists and urged them to redress the worsening bilateral trade imbalance in favor of Germany. Commenting on the "all too frequent" dumping charges leveled by the European Community (EC) against South Korean products in

Europe, Kim asked the German industrialists for their support for Korean efforts to resolve the problem, ministry sources said.

Kim told the visitors that Korean businesses were very interested in forming joint ventures or technological tieups with German enterprises. The two countries should promote cooperation, especially in small- and medium-sized industry and especially in the fields of electronics, steel and automobiles, Kim said. Kim also asked the Germans to help facilitate Korean investment in the former East Germany. The Germans arrived Monday, accompanying Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who is paying a state visit to Korea.

Holds Summit With Kim

SK0203031893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0300 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 2 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl discussed the North Korean nuclear issue, German participation in Korea's high-speed railway project and economic cooperation in summit talks Tuesday. The two leaders also exchanged views on South Korea's relations with North Korea and problems related to Korean unification, presidential spokesman Yi Kyong-chae said. Kim and Kohl shared the opinion that to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue satisfactorily, mutual and simultaneous inspections between two Koreas are necessary in addition to inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Yi said.

Kohl, the first German leader to visit South Korea, arrived Monday for a three-day stay. At the summit, which lasted 80 minutes, Kim told his guest that Seoul did not want to isolate North Korea but would welcome it into the world community if Pyongyang opened up its nuclear program and carried out reforms, Yi said. The two leaders recognized that the North Korean nuclear problem was not only a threat to the Korean peninsula and the Northeast Asian region but also a challenge to the world, Yi said.

The spokesman said Kohl expressed German interest in the Korean high-speed railway project linking Seoul with Pusan. Kim told the visitor that his government was conducting "an objective" appraisal of all the international tenders. "The bidder who is offering the best possible conditions for the project and our country will be selected," Kim was quoted by his spokesman as telling Kohl.

Kim also told Kohl that the two countries should strive to develop balanced bilateral trade and invited German businesses to invest more in South Korea. He also asked for more technological cooperation from Germany, Yi said. Kim and Kohl agreed to exert joint efforts for South Korea's business advancement into Europe and for German business in Asia. Kohl explained the political situation in Europe, including moves for a United Europe, and Kim sought German help in promoting South Korean relations with the European Community.

Kim explained that North Korea's leaders are on the horns of a dilemma between the need for maintaining their communist regime and introducing reforms for economic development. Kim said he believed North Korea would adopt a practical and compromising attitude. "South Korea will continue its dialogue with North Korea in order to induce reforms and openness in the North," Kim said. In this connection, the German leader explained in detail his country's experience in unification, Yi said. The shortest way to unification was to promote exchanges in various fields between the two sides while solidifying political stability and economic development, Kohl told Kim, Yi said.

Following his meeting with Kim at Chongwadae, Kohl met with Prime Minister Hwang In-song. Kohl is scheduled to give a press conference before attending a banquet hosted by President Kim.

ROK, German Ministers Hold Talks

SK0203062793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0609 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 2 (YONHAP)—South Korean Vice Foreign Minister No Chang-hui and his German counterpart, Dieter Kastrup, state secretary for the Federal Foreign Office, discussed a wide range of international issues in Northeast Asia and Europe and ways to strengthen bilateral ties during talks Tuesday [2 March]. No sought the German Government's continuing support for Seoul and its position on the North Korean nuclear issue. Kastrup, accompanying Chancellor Helmut Kohl on a three-day stay in Seoul, showed particular interest in Korea's relations with the United States, Japan, China, and Russia.

Kohl Links DPRK Inspection, Ties

SK0203071193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0654 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 2 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Germany will seek improved political, cultural and academic ties on top of their economic relations, based on sophisticated technology, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said Tuesday. Germany is Korea's fourth largest trade partner but aims to become third, and possibly second, Kohl told a press conference.

Calling for Korean investment in Eastern Germany, Kohl said he had invited President Kim Yong-sam to visit Germany in the early future and hoped Kim personally saw the possibilities in cooperation projects. On Seoul's selection of the contractor for 8.3 billion U.S. dollar high-speed railway project, the chancellor asked for South Korea's "objective" decision.

The German leader arrived in Seoul Monday on a three-day trip, the last leg of his Asian tour that took him to India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Japan. He is the first

German chancellor to come to South Korea. "Germany knows more than any other people the pain of national division," Kohl said in a statement opening the press conference. "The Korean division is not the final judgement of history. Reunification can be achieved if people desire it," he said. "Because we have the experience, we want to help," he said.

High technology would play an important role in Seoul-Bonn trade, for example, environment and railway transport technology, Kohl said. Asked about Korea's reaction to investing in Eastern Germany, Kohl said he hoped for early fruition of such investment following in-depth talks with Kim. "South Korea is our important trade partner in Asia, and we hope to work further on this relations," he said. "In turn, the former East Germany is a convenient gateway to entering the East European market." Kim had promised him that the Seoul government would be entirely objective in selecting the contractor for the Seoul-Pusan railway project, Kohl added, saying the subject was raised during the summit.

The chancellor reiterated his country's stance that North Korea must accept special inspection on its nuclear sites. "This is a condition to Germany normalizing ties with North Korea," he said.

Kim, Kohl Discuss Reunification

SK0203115193 Seoul YONHAP in English 1124 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 2 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam said Tuesday evening his administration will steadily promote dialogue with North Korea and will do all it can to bring about an era of genuine peace on the Korean peninsula. In a dinner speech at a banquet he hosted at Chongwadae for visiting German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Kim said he is positive the day will be not far off when the residue ice of the cold war would melt down on the Korean peninsula. "But, we well know about the danger which an overnight unification or sentimentalism about unification may bring about," he said. "In this connection, we in Korea have learned from German unification the lesson that we should prepare fully for unification."

The president said his administration has embarked on a set of resolute reforms to further uplift the economy and the living standard of the people. "We strive to contribute to a safer and more prosperous world on the basis of democracy and market economy," Kim said.

In his table speech, Chancellor Kohl said he is sure Korea will attain unification in the not distant future within the frame of peace and freedom. Kohl said his country would support Korea along the road to unification to the most possible extent. Saying that a unified Germany is giving many oportunities to the Korean economy as well, the German Chancellor invited Korean industries to take part in industrial projects in eastern Germany.

Visit Linked to Train Contract

SK0203054693 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 2 Mar 93 p 2

["News analysis" by staff reporter Kang Song-chol]

[Text] German Chancellor Helmut Kohl meets President Kim Yong-sam today, amid speculation that his visit is aimed party at lobbying the Korean government for the contract for the multibillion-dollar Seoul-Pusan high-speed railroad project. Kohl may raise the subject while stressing the importance of economic ties between his country, Europe's biggest economy, and South Korea, one of Asia's emerging economic powers, sources said. During today's summit meeting, the two leaders will also review recent developments in the international situation and discuss steps to further strengthen bilateral political cooperation.

Kohl's visit is meaningful in that he is the man who presided over the process of German unification. He may offer good advice regarding Seoul's efforts for peaceful unification. Kohl is the first German chancellor to visit Korea. He is also the first foreign leader to meet President Kim since the inauguration of Kim's administration last Thursday.

His trip will serve as an occasion for Germany to express its strong interest in participating in the Seoul-Pusan high-speed train project. Germany's ICE (Inter-City Express) is one of the candidates for the $2 billion contract to supply rolling stock and an electronic signal system for the project. The other contenders are France's TGV and Japan's Shinkansen. Germany has actively lobbied the Korean government in recent years to gain the contract, according to the sources. German President Richard von Weizesaecker expressed interest in the project when he met then President No during his trip to Seoul in February 1991. Seoul is expected to select the successful bidder for the railway venture within several months.

The German chancellor was originally scheduled to visit Korea from Oct. 13 to Oct. 14 last year at the invitation of then President No Tae-u. However, the visit to Asian countries, including Korea, was postponed due to the special summit meeting of the European Community in Birmingham. The visit will serve as an occasion for the two countries to further expand their ties. Seoul has been giving increasing importance to its relations with Germany, one of the key countries in the Economic Community (EC). In particular, the strengthened relations with Germany will help South Korea to make economic inroads into the unified EC market.

Germany is South Korea's fourth largest trading partner, after the United States, Japan and China. It has also consistently backed Seoul's position in the international arena in regard to such issues as the Korea unification and the entry of the two Koreas into the United Nations.

The government of unified Germany has not recognized the diplomatic relations the former East Germany maintained with North Korea.

Three Korean presidents have made official visits to Germany—Pak Chong-hui in December 1964, Chon Tu-hwan in April 1986 and No Tae-u in November 1989. Two German presidents have visited Seoul—Heinrich Lubke in March 1967 and Richard von Weizsaecker in February 1991. Kohl is visiting South Korea as part of his Asian trip which has also taken him to India, Singapore, Indonesia and Japan. As he did in those countries, the German chancellor is expected to stress the importance of economic ties. Accompanied by a delegation of top German businessmen, the chancellor is also expected to emphasize freer trade and closer political ties.

Last year, South Korea exported about $2.8 billion worth of goods to Germany and imported $3.7 billion. The bilateral trade volume grew by about 80 percent over the past five years. German investment in Korea amounted to $400 million as of December 1992. Korean investment in Germany was $39 million.

Kim il-song Doctors Said To Visit PRC for Medicine

SK0203110893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0600 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Beijing, March 1 (YONHAP)—North Korea recently dispatched four of President Kim Il-song's personal physicians to China on an urgent mission to buy pharmaceutical materials, a reliable Chinese source says. Kim's doctors are reported to have gone to the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in western China, where it is thought they bought some medicine, the source said Monday, requesting anonymity. "Judging by the North Korean action, there is a strong possibility that President Kim's health suddenly deteriorated recently," the source said.

'Overall Review' of DPRK Policy Planned

SK0203083193 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 1 Mar 93 p 2

[Text] It is learned that the ROK Government plans to make an overall review of its North Korean policy which is in a stalemate due to the nuclear inspection issue, and to give flexibility in readjusting its tough North Korean policy.

In this regard, the government is likely to prepare new alternatives for tackling the North-South mutual nuclear inspection issue, the repatriation of Yi In-mo, and other pending issues. The government is planning to drastically expand the exchange and cooperation, including economic cooperation, between the two Koreas to the extent that North Korea responds to it. It has been learned that as part of its efforts to implement this policy, the government is considering lifting the ban on businessmen's visits to the North as soon as possible.

It has also been learned that the new North Korean policy will be given a final review at the unification-related ministers' meeting scheduled for sometime this month.

The government, however, will go ahead with the Team Spirit joint military exercise, the preparations for which have already begun, as scheduled in view of the decision by the ROK and the United States.

Han Wan-Sang, newly appointed National Unification Board minister, hinted in an interview with the Korea Broadcasting System on 28 February that an overall review of the government's northbound policy will be made by saying, "I am certain that inter-Korean summit talks will come about before the end of this year if the nuclear inspection issue is settled and the reconsideration of pending issues, such as the repatriation of Yi In-mo, is made."

Minister Han also predicted that North Korea will accept the special inspection of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] after the conclusion of the Team Spirit joint military exercise at the end of March.

In view of the situation where North Korea is showing strong repugnance to the North-South mutual nuclear inspection as well as the IAEA's special inspection, the government may consider readjusting the particulars of the plan for North-South mutual inspection or linking it with the disarmament issue to be discussed at the North-South joint military committee provided that North Korea sincerely accepts all inspections by the IAEA and takes sufficient steps to win international confidence by proving its transparence in the nuclear issue.

As to the repatriation of Yi In-mo, in particular, the government is expected to consider positive steps so that they may serve as a breakthrough in the deadlocked pending inter-Korean issues, including the issue of separated families.

In connection with the Yi In-mo issue and the North-South nuclear issue, the National Unification Board has advocated flexible measures while the Agency for National Security Planning has insisted on a tough position urging payoffs from the North in return for the South's concessions.

Unification Minister Discusses DPRK Policy Review

SK0203095893 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Interview with new National Unification Board Minister Han Wan-sang by unidentified reported; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] How are you? Today is the third day after you assumed your office on 26 February. What have you been doing during this period?

[Han Wan-sang] I have been very busy. I spent the period being briefed on the business of the Unification Board. At night, I reviewed many office documents at home. I did not sleep all night because I was thinking of the heavy responsibility of my job. So, I am very tired now.

[Correspondent] In his inauguration speech on 25 February, President Kim Yong-sam proposed holding summit talks between North and South Korea. Do you see any possibility for its realization? At the same time, what is the significance of North-South summit talks under the present situation of North-South relations?

[Han] I think now is the time for the North Korean authorities to make an overall review of North-South relations. Of course, our side, as well, should make an overall review of North-South relations. The North side, as well, should do the same. If and when the North side reviews the present North-South relations in a reasonable way after the Team Spirit military exercise ends so that the nuclear inspection issue, the issue of repatriating old man Yi In-mo, and other issues pending between the North and the South can be smoothly solved, it is possible, I think, that North-South summit talks will be held within this year.

Speaking of the historic significance of the summit talks, I can say that our President Kim Yong-sam is very powerful because, among the presidents elected directly by the people ever since national liberation in 1945, he is the first president who enjoys legitimacy in power. So, I think that when such a powerful president meets the head of state of the North and when basic trust is achieved between them, all other issues between the North and the South will be easily solved.

[Correspondent] President Kim Yong-sam has stressed that we should not isolate North Korea from the international community. However, North Korea has actually been isolated from the international community, and its economy is now under a very difficult situation. So, North-South economic cooperation is necessary. However, some people have tended to view North-South economic cooperation as part of the strategy for the united front of reunification. How do you think North Korea's present economic situation and the issue of North-South economic cooperation should be solved?

[Han] I think there are two ways to approach this: One is a blockade operation, that is, strangling North Korea to make it surrender. The other way is to persuade North Korea to move out of its isolation and seek coexistence and coprosperity with us. I think the new government will adopt the latter method. In other words, we should not strangle North Korea. We should build a national community where all Koreans can live happily as the same nation. So, keeping this in mind we are ready to provide economic cooperation to the North at any time. At the same time, the North side should not misunderstand such an effort of ours.

[Correspondent] North-South relations have been suspended because of the nuclear issue. Without solving the nuclear issue, progress in North-South relations cannot be expected. This is the present situation on the Korean peninsula. Some predict, however, that the situation may change following the Team Spirit exercise. What is your plan for the future North-South relations?

[Han] Last year alone we were very concerned about the possibility of North Korea's development of nuclear weapons. However, reports say that the situation has become a little better this year. I think North Korea will reconsider and accept the International Agtomic Energy Agency's [IAEA] demands for a special inspection. However, If North Korea continues refusing to accept the IAEA's special inspection and, accordingly, if this issue is referred to the UN Security Council and North Korea is subject to more severe sanctions, this will be undesirable in the interests of the nation. I think that our side should make North Korea, the same nation, feel relieved and should eliminate misunderstanding. What I want to say here is that the North Korean authorities should accept the IAEA's demands for a special inspection so that they can completely clear up suspicions of its nuclear weapon development.

[Correspondent] You have been known as a professor, and your ideological disposition has been known to be progressive. So, some people worry about the possible conflict with those having a conservative disposition. I think that in the course of your policymaking there will be voices of those whose ideological disposition is conservative and you will be compelled to consider their voices. How will you deal with this problem?

[Han] I know some people would worry about the possible conflict with the Agency for National Security Planning [NSP] which can be said to be conservative as far as the reunification policy is concerned. However, greeting the era of Kim Yong-sam, that is, the era of change and reform, all government organs should be directed toward achieving change and reform. Accordingly, the NSP cannot be an exception. It will change. I think it is already changing. So, there will be no problem in the NSP's activity. The main activity of the NSP is to collect accurate intelligence and information concerning North Korea and the domestic and international situation. Therefore, there will be neither a conservative disposition nor a progressive disposition in the NSP's activity. I am sure that our Unification Board will achieve renewed, satisfactory relations with the NSP in the future.

[Correspondent] Do you have any further comments on the reunification issue that you like to make before the nation?

[Han] As far as the reunification policy is concerned there is no distinction between the ruling party and the opposition party, between conservative forces and progressive forces, between old and young, or between man and woman. Therefore, as the person in charge of the Unification Board, I am going to concentrate all of my efforts on creating a new national consensus on the reunification issue.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

Ministry Denies Holding DPRK Contingency Talks

SK0203101393 Seoul YONHAP in English 1006 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 2 (YONHAP)—South Korean Foreign Ministry officials denied reports Tuesday that it was engaged in tripartite contingency talks to prepare against North Korea's collapse. "Press reports that South Korea, Japan and the United States have been negotiating countermeasures in case of economic chaos and downfall of the North Korean Government are not true," a ministry official said in a released commentary.

"We are in the process of finding out the source of the reports," the official said. Japanese newpapers quoting their Foreign Ministry sources said the three countries began the negotiations last year to exchange information and draw up joint measures for such outbreak of events.

Japan Studies Data Sharing on DPRK With ROK, U.S.

SK0203063093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0618 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 2 (YONHAP)—Japan has been scrupulously examining the possibility of setting up a crisis management system and sharing information on North Korea with South Korea and the United States since last year to prepare for economic chaos or a flood of refugees after North Korea collapses, a Japanese daily reported Tuesday. The YOMIURI SHIMBUN quoted Tokyo government sources as saying that Japan had decided that it had to be prepared for disruptions in the international order resulting from the end of the Cold War and for changes in the region that might be caused by disturbances in North Korea.

The Japanese Government had made preparations for a scenario in which North Korea invades South Korea, the paper said, noting that North Korea is increasingly alienated because of suspicion surrounding its nuclear development program. The scenario was created in the process of consultations among South Korea, the United States and Japan on North Korea's nuclear program, the YOMIURI said. "The three countries feel in common the need to consider it essential to the security of Northeast Asia to cope with extraordinary events in North Korea," it said. "Things are heading toward a situation in which German unification and the downfall of Nicolae Ceausescu in Romania will increasingly become factors that might enable extraordinary things to take place in North Korea," it said.

At the time that Germany was reunited, the report said, people in the South Korean Government assumed that the Korean peninsula could be united in the form of the South's absorbtion of the North. "But now, after seeing Germany preoccupied with economic reforms in former East Germany, people are increasingly worried by the possibility of sudden collapse of the communist North," the paper said.

Japanese Government officials are now worried that North Korea could break down at any time and unleash a maelstrom over the whole peninsula, subsequently affecting Japan, the YOMIURI said. It quoted South Korean President Kim Yong-sam as saying that he was extremely worried about the collapse of North Korea because of its similarities with East Germany. Experts on North Korea estimate that millions of people would pour into the South if the North Korean economy collapses, and that Seoul might then turn to Japan for help, the paper added.

Japan Preparing for Early Kim-Miyazawa Summit

SK2702031893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0127 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 27 (YONHAP)—The Japanese Government plans to prepare for a summit between Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and South Korean President Kim Yong-sam to be held before the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized nations holds its meeting in Tokyo in July, a Japanese Government source said Saturday. Both the South Korean and Japanese Governments recognize the need for a summit at an early date as there are many pressing bilateral issues, including the North Korean nuclear problem, a worsening trade imbalance and the comfort women question, the source said, requesting anonymity.

Japanese Government officials have determined that with the inauguration of the Kim administration in South Korea, it would be desirable for Japan to actively negotiate with Seoul in order to develop "a new South Korean-Japan relationship," the source said. An atmosphere for a Kim-Miyazawa summit is being promoted by Foreign Ministry officials of the two countries, he said. In this context, he said, the two sides also plan to arrange meetings of foreign ministers and other officials to pave the way for the summit. The Japanese Government will soon begin formal diplomatic contact with Korean Foreign Ministry officials soon, he added.

The South Korean Embassy in Tokyo said, however, it has not received any official contact from the Japanese side for a summit but an atmosphere has already been fostered for such a meeting. If the summit is going to be held, there is a possibility that Kim Yong-sam will visit Tokyo, embassy officials said.

Ethnic Korean Emigration From PRC Decreases

SK2702032893 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 27 Feb 93 p 3

[Text] Inchon—The number of ethnic Koreans coming from China has sharply decreased in recent months mainly because of reinforced immigration checks. More than 2,900 Korean-Chinese came to Korea through this western port city during last September but the number fell to 1,700 last month, customs officials here said yesterday. More than 95 percent of ethnic Koreans coming to Seoul from mainland China use the Inchon port.

The decreasing number of Korean-Chinese coming to their motherland was attributed to the reinforced checks by immigration offices of their entry and the worsening employment situation here. Tens of thousands of ethnic Koreans from China are working here to make money, though the employment of foreign laborers is banned here. In addition, the duration of stay here by each visitor was shortened to one month from three months since last July.

The number of Korean-Chinese visiting Korea is decreasing by about 200 or 300 persons each month, officials said, observing that the dwindling tendency will continue for the time being. The officials also added that the weight of luggage carried by ethnic Korean visitors from China is decreasing gradually.

ROK Considering Measures on Russian Nuclear Waste

SK0203092393 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 2 Mar 93 p 1

[Text] In connection with the British television broadcast report that the Russian Navy has been dumping nuclear waste in the East Sea, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is considering measures, instructing the ROK embassy in Russia to verify the truth of the report. A relevant Foreign Ministry official said: It is highly probable that the nuclear wastes were dumped in the East Sea because the Russian Government may have had difficulty in exercising its control over its Navy's dumping of nuclear waste materials. If the practice of dumping is found to be true, we will call upon the Russian Government to take strong measures against it.

ROK Companies Commercialize Russian Technology

SK0203051393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0304 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 2 (YONHAP)—Commercialization of Soviet technology in cooperation with Russian scientists is moving ahead at a rapid pace, industry sources said Tuesday. Twelve senior Russian scientists have been in South Korea since last year at the invitation of the Samsung Advanced Institute of Technology and are sharing their knowledge of Soviet high-tech materials, basic technology, and defense industry. Georgy Park, an expert in digital-video disc recorders, and T. Andreyevich, an expert in computer graphics, are being treated as employees of Samsung Electronics Co.

Samsung aerospace had 23 Russian engineers as of last month, and is working with them on the development of an industrial gas turbine. The Daewoo Business Group has had Russian technicians since 1992 and with their help it recently developed a pilotless helicopter for agricultural use. Some 30 Russian engineers are involved in developing aircraft carbon brake systems at Daewoo Heavy Industries Co. plant in Changwon.

Goldstar Co. invited six Russian technicians to a technology seminar last month and will promote more seminars, bringing in 20 engineers by next month. Shinmi Food Co. in Taegu employs a professor from the Russian Academy of Sciences who is developing a germ processing facility. The government has hired 150 Russian scientists, following last year's 95, and they are concentrating on commercializing Soviet defense technology together with Korean researchers.

Trade With Current, Ex-Communists at $10 Billion

SK0203115693 Seoul YONHAP in English 1054 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 2 (YONHAP)—South Korea's exports to Northern countries [former and present communist countries] exceeded the 10-billion-dollar mark for the first time last year. According to the Trade and Industry Ministry Tuesday, trade with former and present communist-bloc countries amounted to 10,121 million dollars last year. The total broke down to 5,655 million dollars in exports, up 51.3 percent over the previous year, and 4,466 million dollars in imports, a rise of 3.2 percent. Trade balance with Northern countries thus recorded a surplus of 1,189 million dollars compared with 590 million dollars deficits in 1991.

China took the lion's share in the country's exports to Northern countries. Exports to China reached 4,493 million dollars, up 89.5 percent over the previous year, and imports from China to 3,725 million dollars, an increase of 8.3 percent. Vietnam emerged as Korea's second largest Northern trading country with exports to the Southeast Asian country reaching 436 million dollars, a gain of 119.2 percent over 1991, and imports 57 million dollars, up 39.3 percent. Exports to the Commonwealth of Independent states decreased by 41.7 percent from a year before to 365 million dollars and imports from the CIS declined by 14.3 pecent to 495 million dollars. The country also saw exports to east European countries decline by 34.5 percent to 352 million dollars and imports from them slide by 30.3 percent to 187 million dollars.

Meanwhile, the country's exports in February rose by 16 percent over the same month of last year to reach 5,969 million dollars, the first two-digit rise in five months since last September. Statistical figures compiled by the trade and Industry Ministry showed Tuesday imports increased by mere 2 percent to 6,494 million dollars. The country, accordingly, showed a deficit of 525 million dollars in February on a customs clearance basis, 695 million dollars less than a year before. The letters of credit that arrived in February totaled 3,736 million dollars, a gain of 19.1 percent over February of 1992. By area, February exports to the U.S. showed a gain of about 15 percent over a year before and those to China a three-digit rise while exports to Japan and the EC slid.

ROK, Sweden Fail To Reach Agreement in Trade Talks

SK2702095793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0925 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 27 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Sweden on Friday discussed the issue of protecting in Korea the non-marketed materials of Sweden like ometrazole, a gastric ulcer treatment, but failed to reach an agreement. The two sides decided to continue the talks in the future through diplomatic channels, the Foreign Ministry reported.

At the meeting held at the Foreign Ministry in Seoul, Sweden wanted that their non-marketed materials be protected retroactively in the same manner similar items of the European Community (EC) are protected. But, Korea told Swedish officials that under the current regulations, the government cannot reject domestic manufacturers' request for permission to produce items similar to the non-marketed items of Sweden. Korea was represented at the meeting by O Haeng-kom, deputy director-general for trade affairs, and Sweden by Curt Wiik, ambassador at large.

Ministry: ROK Only Asian Country With Jan Deficit

SK2702015993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0037 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 27 (YONHAP)—South Korea was the only major trading country in Asia with a trade deficit last month, the Trade and Industry Ministry said Saturday. Korea ran up a deficit of 960 million U.S. dollars on exports of 5,334 million dollars and imports of 6,294 million dollars in January on the customs clearance basis, the ministry said.

In contrast, Japan recorded a surplus of 5.3 billion dollars on exports of 24.2 billion dollars and imports of 18.9 billion dollars, Taiwan had a surplus of 500 million dollars on exports of 6.4 billion dollars and imports of 5.9 billion dollars, and China had a surplus of 200 million dollars on exports of 3.4 billion dollars and imports of 3.2 billion dollars.

Because arrivals of letters of credit shrank 11.6 percent to 3,971 million dollars in January over a month earlier and issuances of import licenses dropped 4 percent to 5,199 million dollars, Korea's trade balance is expected to dip further into the red. While Korea's total trade deficit was 5,144 million dollars in 1992, Japan posted a surplus of 107.1 billion dollars, Taiwan, 9.5 billion dollars and China, 4.4 billion dollars.

While Korea's exports rose 6.6 percent to 76,632 million dollars, Japan's rose 8 percent to 339.8 billion dollars. Taiwan and China also topped Korea with export gains of 7 percent and 18.3 percent to 81.5 billion dollars and 85 billion dollars, respectively.

ROK Ranked as Ninth 'Maritime Power'

SK2702032793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0135 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 27 (YONHAP)—Korea was the world's ninth maritime power last year in terms of tonnage if bareboat charters are counted, the Korea Port and Maritime Administration (KMPA) said Saturday.

The Korean fleet totaled 581 ocean-going ships of 15.71 million deadweight tons at the end of last year, ninth after greece, Japan, the United States, Norway, Hong Kong, the Commonwealth of Independent States, Britain and China.

Korea ranked 15th at the end of 1991 with 11.41 million tons of shipping, excluding bareboat charters, on deep-sea routes.

A KMPA official said bareboat charter vessels are built with foreign capital but should be regarded as of Korean registry since ownership is transferred to Korea after a period of time.

Goods Surpass Asian Rivals in 'Non-Price' Areas

SK0203051093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0125 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 2 (YONHAP)—Goods made in Japan and the United States are more competitive than the same products from Korea, but Korean goods surpass items from China, Taiwan and Thailand in non-price areas, the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) said Tuesday. It rated Korean firms with 3 points and put Japan at 3.66, the United States at 3.37, Taiwan at 2.85, Thailand at 2.21 and China at 2.18. KCCI made a study of the non-price competitiveness of 395 Korean companies with more than 5 million U.S. dollars of exports a year in eight categories—design, quality, pricing ability, overseas sales promotion capability, distribution channel, trademark, packaging, and overseas market research.

Half of the Korean companies said design and quality were the decisive factors in non-price competitiveness, while 26.1 percent put market research ability as the most important influence. Trademarks and distribution channels drew 3.1 percent each and just 2.3 percent named overseas sales promotion ability. The quality of Korean goods equaled that of the United States (3.01) and excelled the Asian rivals, with Taiwan at 2.26. Korea fell behind Taiwan (3.15), let alone the United States and Japan, in overseas sales promotion capability. KCCI pointed out that Korean traders were more interested in immediate export performance and lacked the tactics for active overseas marketing to get results in the long run.

'Sources': New DLP Secretary General Selected

SK0103002493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0005 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 1 (YONHAP)—Rep. Choe Hyong-u will be appointed secretary general of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] in a major intra-party personnel reshuffle expected to be announced Tuesday, informed party sources said Monday. President Kim Yong-sam, also the head of the party, will name Rep. Yi Se-ki chief policymaker and retain Rep. Kim Yong-tae as floor leader, the sources said. Rep. Sin Kyong-sik is tipped for the chief secretary to the party president and Rep. Kang Chae-sop for the spokesman, they said.

'Source': Kim To Reshuffle Top DLP Posts 3 Mar

SK0203031993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0111 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 2 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam, who is also president of the Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), is expected to reshuffle top party posts on Wednesday, a party source says. Kim has already decided which officials will fill the office of secretary-general and other senior party posts and had been expected to make an announcement Tuesday, the source, requesting anonymity, said on Monday. The president could not find time because of German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's state visit, he said. Rep. Choe Hyong-u is expected to become secretary-general while Rep. Kim Yong-tae, floor leader in the National Assembly, retains his job, the source said.

While Rep. Yi Se-ki has emerged as a heavy favorite for the post of chief policymaker, Reps. Chong Chae-chol and Kim Chung-wi were still being mentioned as possible alternatives, he said. Kim was said to have decided on Reps. Sin Kyong-sik and Kang Chae-sop as chief of the party president's secretariat and spokesman, respectively, he said.

Meanwhile, tension has risen between the presidential secretaries at Chongwadae and aides to Executive Chairman Kim Chong-pil of the ruling party over who leaked the selection of officials for the party posts. Chongwadae officials suspect the Kim's side, while Kim's aides insist the information came from Chongwadae.

President Kim, who employs a secretive style of personnel management, was reportedly enraged by the leak. Officials at Chongwadae indicated that they had told no one but DLP Executive Chairman Kim Chong-pil. But Kim Chong-pil's aides said it was Chongwadae officials who leaked the information. "The presidential secretariat intentionally leaked it in order to gauge the reaction," they said.

UPP Vacates Headquarters, National Assembly Office

SK2702031993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0041 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 27 (YONHAP)—The United People's Party [UPP] had to literally move out onto the street Saturday when the owner of the building where has its headquarters asked it to vacate the office space. In a meeting of the party's lawmakers and senior officials Friday presided over by Executive Chairman Kim Tong-kil, the UPP decided to move its headquarters out of the building, owned by the Hyundai Engineering and Construction Co.

But they failed to work out measures to secure funds for renting a new building to move into, party sources said. The party also has to vacate its office in the National Assembly by Sunday since it lost the status of a parliamentary negotiating group when the number of lawmakers dropped below the required 20.

The party was created by Chong Chu-yong, founder of the Hyundai Business Group, last year as a vehicle for Chong's presidential ambitions. But since his defeat in the Dec. 18 election, Chong has retired from politics, leaving the party out in the cold and without money. But some 30 chiefs of the party's local chapters held their own meeting Friday and decided to keep the party alive. They adopted a resolution urging an early party convention, among other things.

Former UPP Lawmakers To Form Negotiating Body

SK2702060993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0540 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 27 (YONHAP)—Lawmakers who deserted the United People's Party [UPP] and reduced it to a broken shell are now taking steps to form a parliamentary negotiating body. Rep. Yang Sun-chik told a news conference Saturday that he was joining the exodus and would head the new negotiating body. "When we consider our political culture and the relationship between the ruling Democratic Liberal Party and the opposition Democratic Party, I think it is necessary to have a third force in the National Assembly," Yang said. "I will talk about it with the departing legislators." He denied consulting UPP founder Chong Chu-yong first.

The UPP is now down to 15 National Assembly seats and is likely to lose another five soon to the new negotiating body. Yang said the deserters would elect him leader and qualify as a negotiation body before the April sitting begins.

Reaction to Newly Formed Cabinet Reported

Polls Show 'Positive Reaction'

SK2702065893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0611 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 27 (YONHAP)—South Koreans gave a positive review of President Kim Yong-sam's cabinet and said they expect it to put top priority on price stability, revitalization of the economy and eradication of corruption in two polls Saturday. The nation's two major dailies, TONG-A ILBO and CHUNGANG DAILY NEWS, carried similar polls on the new cabinet, drawing a comparatively positive reaction to the cabinet. On the lineup of the cabinet and presidential staff, 64.8 percent of the 1,000 polled by the CHUNGANG DAILY NEWS said "satisfactory" and 2.7 percent turned their thumbs down.

In the other poll, conducted jointly by the TONG-A ILBO and Tongso Research, 75.1 percent of the 1,000 people questioned gave a positive answer to the same question, and 5.9 percent answered in the negative. Asked why they viewed the lineup positively, 28.2 percent said it showed a will to reform state management, 21.1 percent singled out competence and experience and 19.8 percent cited freshness in the TONG-A poll.

On Kim's choices for prime minister and for chairman of the Board of Audit and Inspection, 51.9 percent and 53.1 percent, respectively, approved. More than half had no opinion on Kim's nominations for director of of the Agency for National Security Planning (54.5 percent), chief presidential secretary (51.1 percent) and economic ministers (51.3 percent).

On the prospects for state management by the president, 72.7 percent answered positively, which is rare reaction for a new chief executive, according to CHUNGANG. At the same time, 82.2 percent said they were optimistic about reforms to be pushed by the new government, while only 9.2 percent expressed pessimism, according to the TONG-A poll.

On the primary tasks the new government should move ahead with, 47.8 percent pinpointed price stability and 42 percent economic growth, indicating that people are mostly concerned about economic betterment, according to the CHUNGANG survey. Among other priorities, eradication of corruption accounted for more than 30 percent, while worsening rural problems and regional hatred took more than 5 percent in both polls.

Survey: Favorable Response

SK2802111193 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 27 Feb 93 pp 1-2

[Text] People believe that President Kim Yong-sam's first cabinet reshuffle reflects the new government's will for reform. In particular, they highly assessed the appointment of a civilian as director of the Agency for National Security Planning [NSP], and the appointments of three women as cabinet ministers. This is a result of a telephone survey of 700 men and women aged 20 and over throughout the country held by KYONGHYANG SINMUN and the Continental Research Center, headed by President Chang Tok-chin. The survey viewed the people's response to the new cabinet.

Concerning the question as to how much the cabinet reshuffle reflected the will for reform, including the will to root out irregularities and corruption, to rehabilitate the economy, and to tighten national discipline, 12.0 percent answered that it 'reflected the will very well' and 50.0 percent answered 'comparatively well', that is, 62 percent gave positive answers. On the other hand, 3.4 percent answered that it 'did not reflect the will very well' and 0.6 percent answered it 'did not at all' reflect the will, thus only 4 percent gave negative answers to the question. In particular, four out of five said that the appointment of a civilian as chief of the NSP is 'very desirable' or 'desirable', and only 16 percent responded to this negatively.

Concerning the appointments of three women as cabinet ministers, 75.7 percent assessed this positively, and 78.1 percent said that cabinet members were selected based on a more balanced geographical distribution than ever before. Particularly in Kwangju and South Cholla Province, 98.2 percent reacted positively to the appointment of a civilian NSP director. And in this area, 85.5 percent, higher than any other areas, responded favorably on geographical distribution of cabinet members.

Regarding the selection of figures with much experience in affairs as economic ministers, 80.1 percent said this is desirable, or relatively desirable, for settling economic problems. This reflects that generally 80 percent of all respondents take a positive view of President Kim's somewhat unexceptional cabinet reshuffle.

Concerning the question as to the criteria that should be used in making a desirable selection of the prime minister, more people agreed to select a figure who values 'national harmony' (57.6 percent) rather than a figure who is 'experienced in affairs and capable of fulfilling reforms' (37.9 percent). People regard Prime Minister Hwang In-song as a politician who values 'national harmony' (49.6 percent) rather than as one who is 'experienced in affairs and capable of fulfilling reforms' (30.4 percent). An analysis says that this is because people believe the selection of Prime Minister Hwang, who is from the Cholla provinces' area, was made to provide national harmony.

According to the poll, Prime Minister Hwang, Chairman of the Board of Audit and Inspection Yi Hoe-chang, and NSP Director Kim Tok, who are the focus of the reshuffle, are viewed as having a comparatively high degree of will for reform. They are very unique and have a high degree of professionalism. Of the respondents, 48.1 percent said Prime Minister Hwang's will for reform is strong while 6.0 percent said it is not. In the survey, 49.4 percent said Hwang's novelty is 'high' while 9.1 percent said it is 'low.'

The survey said 58.7 percent rated Chairman Yi Hoe-chang's will for reform as strong, thus putting the highest value on him among the above-mentioned three core persons from this point. Of the respondents, 56.9 percent said Yi's novelty is 'high' while 2.9 percent said it is 'low,' and 59.4 percent rated his professionalism as 'high.'

Regarding NSP Director Kim's will for reform, 36.7 percent responded positively, and 6.4 percent responded negatively. Of the respondents, 51.7 percent appraised Kim's novelty positively, and 3.0 percent responded negatively. On the other hand, 28.1 percent expressed positive opinions on his professionalism and 17 percent expressed negative opinions on it. That is, there is no big difference between positive and negative opinions on Kim's professionalism, while an overwhelming majority expresses positive opinions on both his will for reform and novelty. Allowable error in this survey is plus or minus 3.70 percent.

Cabinet Reflects 'Promised Reforms'

SK2702032493 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 27 Feb 93 p 2

[By staff correspondent Kim Chong-chan]

[Text] In shaping his cabinet lineup, President Kim Yong-sam appears to have made an effort to distance himself from previous authoritarian governments. Analysts also say the inclusion of several progressive individuals in the cabinet reflected Kim's determination to fulfill his promised reforms. But critics say this may be risky as they lack experience in state administrative affairs.

Surprisingly, Kim, the first civilian President since Pak Chong- hui's 1961 military coup, appointed Kim Tok, a professor of international politics at the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, as head of the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP). Previously, former military generals or prosecutors who had been loyal to ex-presidents had been named NSP chief.

The counterintelligence agency, which had been accused of meddling in domestic politics, has recently pledged to concentrate its efforts on gathering intelligence from abroad, including North Korea. The new NSP chief, 58, has studied North Korean affairs for many years. Kim Tok is expected to take bold steps to scale down the functions of the agency.

President Kim, a former opposition leader who fought for peaceful government reforms against successive military dictatorships for three decades, was once sprayed with acid allegedly by intelligence agents. What is also noteworthy is that Kim Sang-chol, a human rights lawyer, was named mayor of Seoul. The appointment of the 46-year-old lawyer as Seoul mayor may accelerate the pace of President Kim's promised reforms, analysts say.

But critics say that Kim may fail to meet the public's expectations as he has little administrative experience. Under previous administrations, ruling camp figures who are stalwart conservatives had been appointed to this post. In choosing economic ministers, the Chief Executive seems to have been influenced especially by their depth of experience.

Yi Kyong-sik, who was named economic planning minister, is said to be well versed in economic matters. Yi served as chief of the Planning Office of the Economic Planning Board, vice minister of communications, senior presidential secretary for economic affairs and president of Daewoo Motor Co. Yi, 60, is likely to undertake moderate reforms to help fulfill President Kim's No. 1 campaign pledge, to revive the nation's economy which has been plagued by sluggish exports and investments. The President selected several lawmakers of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] for his cabinet. The action was taken to mean that President Kim wants to reflect grassroots viewpoints in state affairs. Kim concurrently heads the DLP.

The appointment of Han Sung-chu, a professors of international relations at Korea University, as foreign minister, and Han Wan-sang, a former prominent dissident and professor at Seoul National University, as unification minister may have also surprised many people. Given that Han Wan-sang is considered a progressive individual, the government's policy toward North Korea may change. The new foreign minister, who is known for his newspaper columns, is expected to help shape post-Cold War foreign policy.

Women have been more represented in the cabinet than ever before. Three women were selected as cabinet ministers, including environment minister.

Intelligence Agency To Increase Economic Collection

SK0203090593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0841 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 2 (YONHAP)—The Agency for National Security Planning [NSP] will turn its hand to collecting and analysing foreign information under President Kim Yong-sam, a senior NSP official said Tuesday. "An initial briefing for the new director, Kim Tok, on our work has been completed since his appointment last week," he said. "He will start by adjusting the NSP's functions on the basis of his findings, and reorganize it later."

The NSP will drastically cut back on collecting domestic information, the source of much of its negative image, and beef up its overseas activities, especially the gathering of industrial and commercial information, he said. The new director said in his inaugural speech on Feb. 26: "In doing the reforms, we will not seek a prompt overhauling of the organization but are intent on a steady and gradual reorganization to avoid side-effects."

Kim will have completed his overhaul by the end of March because he thinks it undesirable to delay, the official said. He will cut down from two deputy directors, a vice minister-level position, to one and from three advisers to one.

Information Minister Discusses Press Relations

SK0203120093 Seoul YONHAP in English 1042 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 2 (YONHAP)—Information Minister O In-whan said Tuesday that in his ministry's programs, focus will be switched from government publicity in the past to people's publicity under the new civilian-led administration. "This is especially so because people's voluntary participation would be needed in effecting various reforms since reforms cannot be promoted with the efforts of the president and the administration alone," he said.

In his first press conference after he took office last week, Minister O said that the press as a whole should seek out a new standing and role through changes of their own in this age of changes and reforms. O said that in pace with the wave of self-ruling, the new government plans to pursue equal and close relations with the press instead of trying to guide or interfere in the press as the past administrations did. Minister O also stressed this is a time when the press should seriously think of social oligations imposed upon them, commensurate with their expanding freedom.

ROK To Integrate Ministries' R&D Capabilities

SK0103145193 Seoul YONHAP in English 1228 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 1 (YONHAP)—The government is considering to integrate its scientific research and development capabilities, now dispersed in the Science and Technology, Trade, Industry, and Resources, and Education Ministries, sources at the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) said Monday.

To establish a nationwide network of scientific and technological development, the government will start setting up scientific industry research complexes in Pusan, Taegu, Kwangju, and Kangnung this year, the sources said.

The government could not manage its research and development capabilities in the past because they were divided into different ministries, the DLP sources pointed out.

It hopes to set up intellectual research complexes to especially promote engineering industry by 1995 and also set up science centers in 10 major cities like the national central science center in Taedok.

Also to strengthen international scientific and technological cooperation with advanced countries, the government hopes to set up Science and Technology foundations with the United States and Japan, the sources said.

Industry Minister Discusses Trade Policy

SK2702040493 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 27 Feb 93 p 8

[Text] Kim Chol-su, new minister of trade, industry and resources said yesterday that he is ready to stand in the vanguard of trade negotiation whenever necessary. Meeting with reporters immediately after his appointment as trade minister, Kim said that the government's trade policy, which has concentrated on solving problems after they occur, needs to be focused on resolving causes of frictions beforehand.

Under this context, Kim said he would try to open dialogue channels between trade officials of Korea and the United States as soon as the appointment of the Clinton administration's working-level trade officials are completed.

On the issue of coordinating the government's trade negotiating functions, now dispersed in several ministries, under a single ministry, he said the idea itself is desirable in view of maintaining the consistency and expertise of policy-making, but added that he saw no need to establish a new, independent agency for this purpose alone.

Asked if and when the ongoing Uruguay Round of free trade negotiations will be settled, Kim said, "It is hard to predict the timing, but Korea, which heavily benefited from the free trade system under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, should actively participate in the negotiation with its eventual successful conclusion in mind."

However, noting that the rice market opening is a delicate issue directly linked to the livelihood of farmers, the new trade minister stressed that the government should block the import liberalization to the last.

Finance Minister Discusses New Policy Direction

SK2702011793 Seoul MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 26 Feb 93 p 3

[Interview with Finance Minister Hong Chae-hyong by correspondent Chon Pyong-chun in Seoul on 25 February]

[Text] New Finance Minister Hong Chae-hyong said on 25 February said: "As President Kim Yong-sam noted in his inaugural address on 24 February [as published], I will conduct financial administration in a way that will implement change and reform." He added: "I will implement the monetary and financial policy in consultation with the Bank of Korea."

After hearing about his appointment, Minister Hong met this reporter and disclosed the direction of the financial policy he will institute. He stressed: "I will push ahead with the realignment of financial industry in a way that will foster the self-discipline and competitiveness of banks."

Following are questions by the reporter and answers by Minister Hong.

[Chon Pyong-chun] How will you go about the financial administration?

[Hong Chae-hyong] The Ministry of Finance is part of the government's economic team. I will have discussions with the ministers of the Economic Planning Board, Trade and Industry Ministry, and other economy-related ministries. Team play is most important.

I will focus our financial administration on the change and reform set forth by President Kim Yong-sam.

[Chon] Active discussions are being held about the reorganization of financial industry. What is your view of this?

[Hong] It is important to foster self-discipline and competitiveness of financial institutions, particularly banks, rather than merely reorganizing industry.

We will intensify the supervisory function in view of the mismanagement of banks that can occur in the process of reorganizing the financial industry.

[Chon] What do you think of the implementation of the financial real name system?

[Hong] We have not discussed this issue with the members of the economic team yet, so I am not in a position to touch on this matter now. I personally think that we must institute the real name system, but its timing and method should be chosen prudently in view of the significant impact it is likely to have on the national economy.

[Chon] We hear that there has been considerable discord between the Finance Ministry and the Bank of Korea over the implementation of the monetary and financial policies.

[Hong] We will implement all monetary and financial policies through consultation with the Bank of Korea.

[Chon] The issue of how to secure the necessary national revenue is also very important, I presume.

[Hong] We will expand the national revenue through fair taxation. As to specific methods, we will have to review this closely later. We will continue to increase tax reduction and exemption for manufacturers to enhance their competitiveness.

[Chon] How will you handle the pressure on opening the financial market?

[Hong] We have already formulated measures for opening the market from the state's point of view. We will consider supplementary measures to minimize the side effects that are likely to occur, depending upon the speed of opening.

Government To Keep Wages, Interest Rates Stable

SK2702040393 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 27 Feb 93 p 8

[Text] The government will keep wages and interest rates stable to help domestic businesses regain competitiveness in the prices of their products, new Deputy Prime Minister cum Minister of Economic Planning Yi Kyong-sik said yesterday. "When wages and interest rates remain high, our products will be overpowered by foreign products in the domestic market as well as in the world market," he said. He said the government needs to promote a cycle of stabilizing wages, regaining competitiveness, recovering economic vitality and promoting workers' welfare. If the nation is to recover economic vitality, he said, workers are required to work hard and businesses are to promote technical innovations.

In an inaugural message he delivered to the officials of the Economic Planning Board, Yi said the government will remove administrative restrictions that prevent private businesses from promoting creativeness and competitiveness. The government, he said, will encourage investment in capital, equipment, research and development in areas that have great growth potential. For this, he said, the government will consult with businesses and financial institutions.

To tide us over during the current economic hardship, he said, all people are required to share the burden of recovering economic vitality. "The government will take the lead in belt-tightening by promoting budgetary savings," he said. The government will not promote economic recovery at the expense of stability in prices or by fanning speculation in real estate, he said. "I don't think we can sacrifice one to acquire the other," he said. "We cannot expect to promote economic justice when speculation in real estate is rampant."

The government will reform the financial industry, ease restrictions on businesses acquiring land for productive use, not for speculation, and promote manpower development and job training, he said. He said the government will increase public investment in manpower development and research and development. A change in thinking is needed to establish a new economic order, he said, adding that instead of being authoritative, officials at the government's economic agencies must be determined to serve private businesses. The government needs to improve the "rule of the game" for private businesses and maintain consistency and transparency in its administration.

When he met with reporters later in the day, Yi said the current economic slump has come from within, not from the outside as in the past. He said the weakened competitiveness of Korean products is to blame for the slump. "It will take time to cure the economic ills," he said. "But I believe another take-off is possible if all people share the burden (of promoting economic recovery) and work hard." He said it is generally agreed that real names should be used in financial transactions. But he cautioned against making haste in introducing the real name system. He said, "I will consider carefully when and how to implement it to minimize its shocking effect on the national economy."

New Seoul Mayor Stresses Reform

SK2702121393 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 27 Feb 93 p 15

[Text] Kim Sang-chol, newly appointed mayor of Seoul, met with reporters on 26 February at his law office in Yoksam-tong, Kangnam-ku, Seoul. He stated: "What is important is how reform—the task of the era—will be implemented. I will do my best to be a fieldworker in achieving reform."

Mayor Kim also said: "One of the most serious problems in our society is that people in leadership from various strata attach more weight to social gatherings or personal publicity rather than work. I will duly fulfill my duty as mayor of Seoul.

[Kim Song-ho] How do you plan to reform municipal administration?

[Kim Sang-chol] I do not think municipal reform is different from that of other departments. I will reform wrong practices and out-of-date customs, and deal with matters based on a universal point of view. I will also make Seoul a city of culture and an international city.

[Kim Song-ho] What do you think about the assessment that you have no exprience in public administration and that you are too young for the post?

[Kim Sang-chol] Time does not generate reform, but man does. It is impossible to generate reform with the people whom I succeeded. There will not be much difficulty in achieving reform if there is cooperation from the citizenry.

[Kim Song-ho] What is the background for the advertisement urging thorough investigation into the espionage case during the last presidential election?

[Kim Sang-chol] I was concerned about possible misunderstanding and criticism at that time. However, I went ahead with my conviction that nothing is more important than maintaining fundamental orders of free democracy as stipulated in the Constitution.

'Environmentally-Friendly' Fuel Foreseen by 1995

SK2702040293 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 27 Feb 93 p 3

[Text] Almost of the entire country will be using environmentally-friendly fuels by 1995 with an expansion in their mandatory use, the Environment Ministry said yesterday. The use of clean energy, coupled with the ban on the use of leaded gasoline and diesel fuel with high sulfur content by automobiles, is forecast to considerably improve the quality of air.

According the ministry officials, the metropolitan district and areas in the vicinity have already begun to use low-sulfur Bunker C oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) and the latest guideline calls for virtually the entire country to convert their sources of energy. At present, Seoul, Inchon and 18 smaller administrative districts in Kyonggi-do are subject to the use of compulsory use of clean energy and most conversion work has been completed.

The officials explained that the guideline makes it necessary for suppliers to distribute Bunker C oil that has a sulfur content of just 1.0 percent, down from the previous 1.6 percent. Under the latest measure, suppliers in Pusan and Taegu will have to reduce the sulfur content in Bunker C oil to the prescribed level by July next year, they said.

The officials said the mandatory use of LNG, now applied to 17 areas including Seoul and the suburban city of Kwachon, will also be expanded to cover most cities by September 1995. The measure on the compulsory use of LNG will only apply to apartments with a total floor space of 25 pyong (one pyong is approximately 3.3 square meters) or building equipped with boilers with capacities of more than 0.5 tons.

The environment officials elaborated that construction work for converting the supply of energy to LNG will be kicked off to be completed before the end of 1995 so that large cities like Pusan, Kwangju and Ulsan can also conform to the new regulations. "There is the dispute over forcing residents and businesses to bear the cost of the conversion work put most of those that have been affected have shown a positive attitude thus far," one official observed.

Burdened by the worsening air pollution here, placed as the second worst in the world by the World Health Organization (WHO), the ministry initiated the ambitious plan to convert all energy sources to those that are environmentally-friendly in 1991. City administration of affected areas issued directives for conversion work to be completed by set dates and only few have been holding out, mostly citing financial difficulties. Although there are currently no legal means of enforcing the regulation, the government is optimistic that the plan will be well-accepted by the general public.

Burma

General Than Shwe Greet Peasants on Peasants Day

BK0203084993 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 0130 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Message from General Than Shwe, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, to peasants on Peasants Day—dated 2 March]

[Text] To the esteemed peasantry: The Peasants Day is observed on 2 March in honor of all peasants throughout the country. On this auspicious day, I extend joyous greetings to all peasantry throughout the country and I wish them good health and success in their agricutlural activities.

The peasantry constitutes the biggest force in the nation and are the owners of labor engaged in the production of food supplies essential for all the national brethren living in the country. Agricultural production of the peasantry is the most fundamental and strongest production force of the nation. Therefore, the government is endeavoring on all fronts to provide better quality of life to the peasantry.

First, Myanmar [Burma] is basically an agricultural country with the peasantry regarded as the main force of the nation since the time of the ancient Myanmar kings. When the country lost its independence and fell into servitude, the entire peasantry suffered greatly under the control and exploitation of the colonial and imperialist government and the avaricious exploitation of foreign capitalists and their minions.

The colonial government and foreign capitalists, solely concerned with making profit for themselves, indiscriminately brought in cheap foreign labor in large number without any control whatsoever. In Myanmar, foreign labor and money lending chetyers [Indian money lenders] were given full protection and they were allowed to exploit the peasantry without any restraint.

The colonials had no sympathy for the peasantry and required them to pay capital tax, land tax, and other taxes. When they could no longer bear the unfair exploitation of the imperialist government, the peasants' rebellion led by Saya San broke out and the political outlook of the peasants was then awakened. The peasants later took part bravely in the anti-imperialist and the anti-fascist movement as well as the independence struggle.

It is firmly believed that the entire peasantry, who had a noble tradition in history, would join hands with the Defense Services which is made up of offspring of national races and continue to repulse all the internal and external threats facing the nation to preserve national independence and not to let the country fall into servitude again.

Currently, the National Convention is being held to lay down basic principles for drafting an enduring state constitution. The delegates who represent peasants of respected areas are also taking part in discussions at the National Convention.

I emphatically urge the entire peasantry, including the peasants delegates, to dutifully play their respective role in implementation of the national task—the emergence of an enduring state constution which would guarantee nondisintegration of the Union, nondisintegration of national unity; and perpetuation of national sovereignty.

Esteemed peasants: The State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] is making untiring efforts to bring about development on all fronts of the nation and it gives priority to construction of dams and irrigation networks, which will be of direct help to agriculture—the main livelihood of the peasants.

The year 1992-93 has been designated as the economic year and accordingly, programs are being implemented to bring about the national economic development. On this endeavor, special emphasis is being paid to the agricultural sector.

The government is systematically opening up virgin and fallow land in order to grow and produce oil-producing crops, beans, sugarcane, cotton, jute, and other crops on single or double cropping basis. Encouragement is being given to significantly increase paddy production to meet the demands of the growing population by increasing the acreage under cultivation, double cropping and by using new cultivation methods, high yielding paddy, and integrated farming.

Agricultural machineries are being sold through a system of payment in paddy or are being rented. The state is also distributing quality seeds and chemical fertilizers and disseminating high-yielding production method. Through these various endeavors and methods, 700 million baskets of paddy are expected to be produced from 12.49 million acres in 1992-93, 800 baskets of paddy from 16 acres in 1993-94, and up to 1,000 baskets of paddy in the following years.

As seen by the peasants, the national leaders are going to the fields themselves and providing necessary assistance. On the part of the peasants, they should constantly strive to constibute to the development of the country's agro-economy by cultivating throughout the year on available land, increasing acreage under cultivation, and applying agriculture methods.

I emphatically urge the entire peasantry to dutifully play their respective roles in implementation of the nation's tasks. I wish to emphatically urge the entire peasantry to dutifully play their role in the task of bringing about development in agriculture and for the emergence of an enduring constitution based on national unity.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Abdullah Reveals 'Fresh' Russian MiG Offer

BK0203070693 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0633 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 2 (BERNAMA)—Russia has made a fresh offer to sell Malaysia its MiG-29 fighter aircraft with additional incentives like the possibility of manufacturing aiccraft spare parts under an offset programme. The offer was made by the visiting Russian vice president, Aleksandr Rutskoy, when he met Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed for bilateral talks here today.

Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said that in reemphasising Russia's bid to equip the Malaysian Armed Forces with a new generation of fighter aircraft. Rutskoy also spoke of a proposed offset programme that included the possible local manufacture of aircraft spareparts.

Speaking to reporters at the Prime Minister's Office here, Abdullah said although Malaysia had yet to make any decision on the original MiG-29 offer, the additional proposal merited consideration. The 90-minute meeting was also attended by senior Russian officials from the 40-member delegation accompanying Rutskoy, who arrived here yesterday for a three-day official visit.

Rutskoy Interested in Palm Oil Refinery in Russia

BK0203070893 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Russia has expressed interest in establishing a palm oil refinery in that country. This interest was expressed by its vice president Aleksandr Rutskoy in his meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Dr. Mahathir Mohamed in Kuala Lumpur this morning.

Briefing newsmen later, the minister of foreign affairs, Datuk Abdulah Ahmad Badawi, said this is a good opportunity to improve export of the commodity as Russia represents a big market. The minister of primary industries will look into the proposal and consider it.

Datuk Abdullah said the meeting between Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir and Mr. Rutskoy touched mainly on how to increase trade and economic links between both countries. The Malaysian prime minister was familiar with the situation in Russia, especially with the latest political developments in the former Soviet Union. Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir requested help from the Russian authorities to identify Russian companies that can have joint ventures with the Malaysian corporate sector. He also suggested that Russia [words indistinct] in Kuala Lumpur to promote trade links and promote their products. According to Datuk Abdullah, opportunities to enhance trade ties are excellent now that there are no more ideological constraints.

Kelantan Ruler: Rulers' 11 Feb Meeting Invalid

BK2702134593 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 26 Feb 93 p 1

[By Shamsul Akmar]

[Text] Kota Baru, Thurs—The Sultan [state ruler] of Kelantan has done another volte-face by repudiating the joint declaration signed between the Rulers and the Government that agreed to the removal of the personal immunity of the monarchs.

He claimed yesterday the conference of rulers meeting on February 11 which endorsed the amendments and changes to the Federal Constitution was null and void.

The Ruler told a meeting of Kelantan high officials at the Istana Balai Besar [Palace] that the meeting was invalid because it was not conducted according to procedure. He said it was held without notice and agenda.

During the February 11 meeting, where the Kelantan Sultan was present but left early, the Malay Rulers agreed to the Constitution (Amendment) 1993 Bill, approved by Parliament last month, after some changes were made.

A joint declaration endorsing the changes was signed on behalf of the Rulers by the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal, Engku Datuk Ibrahim Engku Ngah, and the government by Attorney-General Tan Sri Abu Talib Othman.

The Sultan, who was silent about the constitutional changes since the February 11 meeting of the conference of rulers, also said he was standing by his pre-conference stand that he was against the amendments which, he claimed, were not in accordance with Islam.

He said to correct the situation, he initiated efforts to hold another conference of rulers meeting on February 22 but failed. He spoke of "some unseen hands" that had prevented the meeting from being convened.

He also said the changes to the original amendments were never made available to him or the other rulers and they only came to know of them from reports in the press.

The Sultan, who is known to have vacillated before, claimed that the rulers were not given a clear picture of the new version of the proposed Bill and were misled into giving their consent in the belief that their positions vis-a-vis Article 181(2) of the Federal Constitution pertaining to their personal immunity were not affected.

These were among the highlights of the Sultan's speech during the closed-door gathering.

The gathering was attended by Menteri Besar [Chief Minister] Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat, his deputy Rozali

Isohak, State Exco members and Assemblymen and grassroots leaders such as imam and penghulu [village chieftains].

Also present were the Raja Perempuan [Kelantan state ruler's consort] and members of Terengganu royalty led by Terengganu Semangat 46 liaison chief Tengku Sri Peduka Raja Tengku Ibrahim Ismail.

Despite palace officials' insistence that local journalists were not allowed to attend the gathering, they allowed reporters from Chinese newspapers to cover the function.

Several Chinese dailies front-paged the Sultan's speech today.

It was also learnt that the Sultan, in his short speech urged the rakyat [subjects] of Kelantan to stand behind him and reject the amendments.

He also said that when he gave the proxy to the Sultan of Kedah during the February 11 meeting, he made it clear that he was against any amendment to the Federal Constitution.

The Sultan said he was firm on his stand and would only change it if the amendments were carried out according to the procedures stipulated in the Federal Constitution and according to Islamic requirements and the culture of the Malays.

It was reported that the Sultan did not attend the second part of the meeting because he had to return home for a tahlil [recitation of religious verses] prayer held for his late mother.

The Sultan also said he had to explain his stand to the rakyat so that they would not be misled on the issue.

He said he would only agree to the amendments if they were streamlined according to the Islamic syariah (laws) and benefited the Malays.

Johor Official Criticizes Remarks

BK2802144493 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1300 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Excerpt] The Kelantan sultan's remarks which questioned the validity of the 191st meeting of the Conference of Rulers and the parliament session on 18 January are nothing but an excuse to reject the constitutional amendment the Malay rulers have agreed on. Johor Chief Minister Tan Sri Haji Muhyiddin Yasin said everybody is aware that the sultan's move is in fact a political maneuver backed by a certain opposition party. Speaking to reporters in Johor Baharu, the chief minister said whatever the sultan says, the constitutional amendment issue is over and should no longer be discussed. [passage omitted]

Kuala Lumpur Likely To Reduce Oil Production

BK0203060893 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0528 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 2 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia is likely to reduce its oil production in line with the latest cutback by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to shore up prices, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Syed Hamid Albar said Tuesday. Although we are not a member of OPEC, we usually follow the formula set by it if this does not jeopardise our national interest, he told BERNAMA when asked to comment on OPEC's lower production quota which took effect yesterday.

At its meeting in Vienna last month, OPEC decided to cut total output by 1.4 million barrels per day (BPD) to 23.6 million BPD from March 1. The move was aimed at buoying prices which had dropped by 20 percent from October last year to January this year.

Syed Hamid said: Malaysia is sensitive to the world oil market and will adjust our oil prices within the context of our national interest and the interest of our international relations. We have always followed market indicators from OPEC, but we also need to look at it from the total context like whether our output has exceeded the level in terms of lifting oil prices. This is because Malaysia is only a small producer.

According to Petronas, the National Oil Corporation, Malaysia's output for last year averaged 630,800 BPD [barrels per day], up from 624,000 BPD in 1991. Tapis, Malaysia's sweet light crude which has become the benchmark crude for aSian oil producing countries, is selling at U.S. $20.50 per barrel for March. Syed Hamid also said he would attend a meeting between OPEC members and non-member oil producers in London next month.

Tanzania Requests Economic Development Assistance

BK0103102293 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0801 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 1 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia will study Zanzibar's request to assist the United Republic of Tanzanian state in its economic development, Finance Minister Anwar Ibrahim said Monday.

Speaking to newsmen after a meeting with Zanzibar's Finance Minister Amina S. Ali, and water, construction, energy, land and environment minister, Issa Mohamed Issa, at the treasury here, he said that Zanzibar had requested Malaysia's help in technical and training.

"They are also here to look at our experience in the financial management, both in fiscal and monetary," he said. "I have given my word that we will look at their requests thoroughly," Anwar said adding that Zanzibar was also interested in wooing Malaysian investors into the country and would be meeting a number of corporate leaders during their eight-day visit here. They will be here until March 7. Zanzibar is a two-island state located off the Tanzanian coast in East Africa.

Cambodia

SRV Says Soldiers Left Behind Are Cambodians

BK0203072893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0541 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Hanoi, March 2 (AFP)—Vietnam refuses to accept back three Vietnamese soldiers found serving in the ranks of Phnom Penh's army because it considers them to have become Cambodians, an official statement released here Tuesday said. The statement, delivered to the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] by Hanoi's embassy in Phnom Penh on Friday, disputes UNTAC's assertion that the three men qualify as foreign forces and must be expelled from Cambodia under the terms of the 1991 peace accords.

"To be considered foreign forces, they must be controlled and commanded by a foreign government," the statement said, citing Article 8 of the accords.

"In reality, these men have become Cambodians of Vietnamese origin and they must receive the same treatment and benefits as other Cambodians of foreign origin. That is why Vietnam cannot take them back."

UNTAC said the three men served with the Vietnamese troops who invaded Cambodia in 1978. They married Cambodian women and received Cambodian citizenship cards from the Phnom Penh government—which was installed by Vietnam. The men were the first identified by UNTAC as Vietnamese soldiers in Cambodia, though an UNTAC spokesman said Monday that an unspecified number of other cases were under investigation.

Cambodian factions opposed to Phnom Penh immediately said UNTAC's announcement proved that thousands of Vietnamese troops remained in Cambodia, despite Hanoi's assertion that it withdrew all its forces in September 1989. The most powerful of those factions, the Khmer Rouge, is using the claim of a continued Vietnamese military presence to justify its refusal to disarm or otherwise cooperate with the peace accords.

"Instead of increasing pressure on those who sabotage the peace accords, some forces are intentionally making allegations that there are still Vietnamese military forces in Cambodia in order to slander Vietnam and manipulate public opinion," the Vietnamese statement said.

UNTAC informed Vietnam's embassy in Phnom Penh of the discovery of the three Vietnamese soldiers in a note on February 22 and announced it publicly on Monday. The announcement was seen as an embarrassment for Hanoi, which has been publicly distancing itself from its decade-long occupation of Cambodia as it strives to build economic ties with regional countries. While most diplomats and independent observers agree that Vietnam has withdrawn its combat troops from Cambodia, some suspect Vietnamese covert advisors may remain in the country—a charge Hanoi rejects.

A source close to the Vietnamese army tacitly acknowledged that some Vietnamese military advisors had remained in Cambodia after September 1989, but said they have all come home since. He put the number of demobilized Vietnamese soldiers or deserters living voluntarily in Cambodia at "a few hundred."

But several hundred thousand ethnic Vietnamese have settled in Cambodia since the Vietnamese army ousted the ultra nationalistic Khmer Rouge from power in 1979, including fishermen and landless farmers who continue to immigrate to from the far more populous Vietnam.

Estimates of their total number range from Hanoi's estimate of approximately 100,000 to the Khmer Rouge estimate of more than two million. Their presence has become a source of rising anti-Vietnamese sentiment among Cambodians, stoked by the Khmer Rouge and other former resistance factions.

Suspected Vietnamese Soldier Threatened

BK0203134093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1158 GMT 2 Mar 93

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Kompong Tralach, Cambodia, March 2 (AFP)—One of three men accused by the United Nations of being a Vietnamese soldier in Cambodia said Tuesday he had received death threats after neighbors discovered he served with occupation forces. The death threats, however, have not affected 35-year-old Kim Tay's decision not to return to Vietnam.

"Somebody put up a sign, a banner, over my house saying: 'Tay, you must leave this place immediately. Watch out, you will be killed if you don't leave.'" he said. "I am very afraid of living here."

But Kim Tay, who earns a living as a motorbike taxi driver in a dusty little village off National Route 5 in central Cambodia, told AFP he does not want to take his pregnant Khmer wife and four young children to a land he has not lived in for 12 years.

"I have many children here and I have to take care of them," he said, speaking Khmer with the accent of southern Vietnam. "However, I don't have a single relative in Vietnam so it will be difficult for me to get support."

Kim Tay was one of three men confirmed by the United Nations to have been members of a Vietnamese invasion force that occupied Cambodia from 1978 to 1989.

He has been singled out and is now being forced to flee his home after the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) began investigating him in January.

But the Vietnamese government has said it was not willing to accept his return because he had become a Cambodian citizen.

The radical Khmer Rouge, who were ousted by the Vietnamese, claim that thousands of Hanoi's soldiers still occupied Cambodia and were disguised as civilians.

Kim Tay said he is not the only member of the Vietnamese forces who remained behind after Hanoi officially withdrew its troops in September 1989, adding that there were four others in his village.

The Phnom Penh government said U.N. investigators determined that Kim Tay worked as a Vietnamese-Khmer interpreter and was recruited locally by the Vietnamese army in 1981. However, he is an ethnic Khmer even though he was born in Vietnam.

Kim Tay still draws a paycheck from the Phnom Penh government army, where he again worked as an interpreter after his discharge from the Vietnamese army in 1985, even though he said he has not reported to work since late 1990.

He also claims he does not know for sure where he was born, but that his father told him he was born in Cambodia.

U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said an investigation proved the man was born in Vietnam, despite the fact that he was successful in registering to vote in U.N.-sponsored elections to be held in May.

"He has made a number of contradictory statements that lead us to believe he is not telling the truth," Falt said. "He will be struck out from the list of registrants."

Falt added that no extra security measures were being taken to assure the safety of the three men.

The two other suspected Vietnamese soldiers live in Kratie province and in Kompong Speu province, according to the United Nations.

Sihanouk Leaves for Beijing Following Aunt's Death

OW0203051093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0424 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, March 2 KYODO—Prince Norodom Sihanouk left here Tuesday [2 March] for Beijing, where his aunt died Monday, according to sources close to Sihanouk.

Sihanouk, chairman of Cambodia's Supreme National Council [SNC], returned home on February 9 from Beijing, where he had stayed for three months for "health reasons."

Diplomatic sources in Phnom Penh said Sihanouk will not return to Cambodia until early April because of health reasons and turmoil in the country ahead of general elections in May.

An SNC meeting is scheduled for next Monday in Beijing.

Sihanouk Slams Criticism of Reconciliation Plan

BK0203101093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0955 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, March 2 (AFP)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk left here for Beijing on Tuesday with harsh words for those determining the future course of Cambodia.

The prince in a statement lamented widespread criticism of his plan to form a reconciliation government including the Khmer Rouge despite the faction's boycott of U.N.-run elections and to place the army under his control—even though he is not running for any office—as a means of avoiding renewed civil war.

Prince Sihanouk said those who rejected his plan "must alone assume before history, the nation and the Cambodian people, all responsibility for the very serious mishaps to which Cambodia will be susceptible in the future after the U.N. elections in May."

The official reason for the prince's departure was to attend the funeral of his aunt, Norodom Ket Kanha, who died at age 91 in Beijing on Monday.

However, the prince did not set a date for his return, and he was not expected back before the next Supreme National Council (SNC) meeting scheduled for March 9.

Prince Sihanouk is chairman of the SNC, the reconciliation body which groups the four Cambodian factions.

A Royal Palace official said the prince would return by the end of the month, but Prince Sihanouk has previously said he would go to Pyongyang in April for 81st birthday celebration of North Korean President Kim Il-Sung.

Prince Sihanouk's statement said that he never intended to dissolve the new National Assembly to be elected under U.N. control. He said he only intended to take control and form the reconciliation government in order to hold new Cambodian-run elections in which the Khmer Rouge would participate.

"Those foreigners and Cambodians who criticized my plan were wrong to suspect me of wanting to get rid of the new Cambodian democracy," the prince said.

"I would never demand the dissolution of the National Assembly following the May U.N. elections," he said. "But I maintain my wish and my hope to see one day my country, Cambodia, put an end to its de facto partition (and) to armed confrontations."

The United States in particular objected to Prince Sihanouk's plan to exercise power without holding an elected office.

Prince Sihanouk boarded a special Kampuchea Airways plane at Pochentong Airport and was seen off by Prime

Minister Hun Sen and Cambodian People's Party President Chea Sim, as well as members of the diplomatic corps and representatives of the opposition factions.

The prince, who is in poor health, was also due to have a medical checkup in Beijing.

Khmer Rouge Said Taking UN 'For a Ride'

BK0203071093 Phnom Penh CAMBODIA TIMES in English 8-14 Feb 93 p 3

[Commentary: "Khmer Rouge: The UNTAC Factor"]

[Text] The Khmer Rouge took UNTAC for a ride and got away with it—and it still is. In fact the writing was on the wall before the ink dried on their signature on the Paris Peace Accord. The genocidal regime that murdered over one million of its own people had been restored to political legitimacy with the stroke of a pen, gaining for themselves a degree of recognition and international acknowledgement which they were unable to have when their murderous regime ruled the country between 1975 and 1979.

Voices left and right warned that the Khmer Rouge would simply take the UN, the world community and Cambodia for a ride at the expense of the other three factions that form part of the peace process. Most of all, they are taking their fellow countrymen for yet another round of intense suffering while the UN looks on with great tolerance and a hint of wonderment.

Now the proof and the writing is again up on the wall because the Khmer Rouge is not one of the 20 political parties that have registered to participate in the elections slated for May 23-25.

What the Khmer Rouge has done, given that it is such a small band of spoilers, is to run rings around the UN since October 1991 and frustrate the so-called peace process at every turn along the way.

Perhaps with UNTAC being the embodiment of the largest and most ambitious United Nations undertaking in history, it has automatically become the world's greatest optimist, believing that anyone who signs an agreement would surely honour that agreement.

But as everyone had predicted, the large, ponderous and unwieldy elephant, that is Untac, can actually dance to the tune of an ant—perhaps too willingly. What UNTAC had done is make the Khmer Rouge an extremely rich faction through a sudden burst of new business ties with Thailand, allowing them to fill their war chest not only with guns but also with millions upon millions of US dollars.

So in the process, UNTAC, being unable, unwilling and unsure as how to deal with the Khmer Rouge, turned its focus on the government of Cambodia, nit-picking its way through five of the government's key ministries, creating much movement but no achievement. All this went on while the Khmer Rouge were left to their own devices, with UNTAC embargoed from entering their territory by the simple act of placing a few twigs across a dirt road—that stopped a 15,500 strong UNTAC military force, cowing it into complete impotence.

The only time UNTAC soldiers actually got into Khmer Rouge territory was when they were periodically kidnapped by the radical Maoist group, at which time these abducted UN troopers were lauded and treated as heroes upon their release, making headlines around the world. The lesson is a simple one. UNTAC has shown the world how not to solve the Cambodian situation and through its mismanagement has allowed one faction to become rich, spread terror, fortify its military position, grab more land and most of all ridicule UNTAC and get away with impunity.

Obviously, UNTAC's mandate as peacekeeper and not peace enforcer makes it akin to a gunslinger entering town on two crutches. The Khmer Rouge knew this and used it to their fullest advantage. Many voices warned UNTAC and many pleas went unheard. But then, everyone knew that over a year ago, except, perhaps, UNTAC.

It is the government that can crush the Khmer Rouge and pave the way for the real recovery of Cambodia.

As for UNTAC, it is time to stop doing the bidding of the Khmer Rouge.

UN Says Government, KR Harass Registered Voters

BK0203104293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1005 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, March 2 (AFP)—The United Nations said Tuesday that the Phnom Penh government and the Khmer Rouge [KR] were both systematically harassing Cambodians who registered to vote in the upcoming U.N. elections in May by confiscating their registration cards.

Hundreds and perhaps thousands of Cambodians have had their cards taken away by the authorities in areas controlled by all four Cambodian factions, U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said.

In most government areas, the cards were given back after the person's name and registration number were noted; however, the Khmer Rouge were systematically destroying the cards they confiscated.

"The party of the (government) is responsible for most of the acts of collections," Falt said. "Indeed, most of the time they return the cards, whereas the (Khmer Rouge), who have also been responsible for a number of similar violations, usually destroy the cards."

Confiscations were occurring in at least 12 of Cambodia's 21 provinces, and in two to three districts of each of the provinces reporting in, the spokesman said.

The action may be going on unreported in other areas as well, he said.

"We have now established that the practice of collecting and confiscating electoral cards is more widespread than previously thought," Falt said. "The problem seems to be especially acute in the countryside."

Falt said that the factions were advised by letter on February 16 that card confiscation constitutes an attempt to intimidate the voters.

The U.N. spokesman also singled out the political party affiliated with former prime minister Son Sann's Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), as well as its break-away the Liberal Democratic Party.

The FUNCINPEC party loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk and a party run by a Cambodian-American gas station owner called Republic Democracy Khmer were also accused of confiscating cards, in part to fulfill their requirement of having the signatures of 5,000 registered voters to be on the ballot, Falt said.

Cambodians without registration cards can still vote by "tendered ballot" a process which involved putting the candidate choice into a sealed evelope that must be verified by a computer check before it can be opened, Falt said.

"There will be a higher number of tendered ballots than is normal in an election," he said.

Foreign Interference in Poll Issue Criticized

BK0203064293 Phnom Penh CAMBODIA TIMES in English 15-21 Feb 93 p 3

[Commentary: "Double Standards Rears Its Ugly Head"]

[Text] Government supports Samdech Preah [His Royal Highness] Norodom Sihanouk for the presidency when the position is formalised.

The support is there despite the prince's published statements which are not exactly flattering to the government. The prince also has support from three other factions which are in the Supreme National Council, although one group, the Khmer Rouge, seems to be on its way out of the body for reconciliation. These groups have a right to decide who should or should not be the future president because they are citizens of the country. But when it comes to foreigners dictating who should be president, it is another kettle of fish. Leaders of Asean, Japan and several other countries have been expressing their feelings as who should be the President. Perhaps when Cambodia politically progresses, some people in Phnom Penh should be telling the people of these countries who they should elect as their leaders. The issue here, of course, is not the suitability of the candidate but the interference of some neighbours in Cambodia's internal affairs, which it can do without.

Still on the subject of double standards, the UNTAC spokesman had little colour to add to the facts when the Khmer Rouge started biting into government territory. UNTAC's [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] Human Rights component was conspicuous by its silence on the displacement of thousands of returned refugees when the Khmer Rouge shelled Bavel. When the government tried to retake its own territory lost to the Khmer Rouge and to prevent the guerrillas from harassing peasants during the current harvest season, UNTAC is up and in arms. It is termed as "an offensive". Diplomats in Phnom Penh were amused by the "offensive" tag given to the government operation. They maintain that the government was only defending itself.

Many of those behind the UNTAC bandwagon were the very same people who created the monster, whose maverick attitudes are being treated like those of a naughty child.

UNTAC better do something before it loses more "face". A joke among Cambodians is that UNTAC soldiers jog every morning not just to keep fit, but in readiness to run should the Khmer Rouge return. It is hoped that this is only a joke.

Radio Lists Parties To Run in May Elections

BK2702080193 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] The following is a list of parties that have been officially recognized for the May 1993 elections and the order of political parties on the ballot according to the drawing on 21 February 1993:

1. Cambodian People's Party [kanakpak pracheachon kampuchea];
2. Reconciliation Republican Party [kanakpak sathearanak-rat bangruop bangruom];
3. Liberal Progressive Republican Party [kanakpak sathearanak-rat aphivoat serei];
4. Neutral Khmer Party [kanakpak khme aphyeakret];
5. Rally for National Unity Party [kanakpak pramol-phdom daeumbei samaki cheat];
6. Neutral Democratic Cambodia Party [kanakpak kampuchea aphyeakret pracheathipatai];
7. Democrat Party [kanakpak pracheathipatai];
8. Free Independent Democratic Cambodia Party [kanakpak kampuchea sereipheap ekareach pracheathipatai];
9. Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party [kanakpak pracheathipatai serei preah puthasasna];
10. Liberal National Reconciliation Party [kanakpak serei bangruop bangruom cheat];
11. FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Party [kanakpak funcinpek];
12. Reborn Cambodia Party [kanakpak kampuchea ruoh laeung vinh];

13. Action for Democracy and Development Party [kanakpak sakamapheap daeumbei pracheathipatai noeng aphivoat];

14. Patriotic Khmer Party [kanakpak khme sneha cheat];

15. Liberal Republican Party [kanakpak sathearanak-rat serei niyum];

16. Liberal Democratic Khmer Farmers Party [kanakpak kaksekar pracheathipatai serei khme];

17. MOULINAKA [National Liberation Movement of Kampuchea] Khmer Resistance for Freedom Party [kanakpak neak tar-su khme moulinaka daeumbei sereipheap];

18. Liberal Democratic Party [kanakpak pracheathipatai serei];

19. Khmer Liberal Republican Party [kanakpak sathearanak-rat pracheathipatai khme];

20. Khmer National Congress Party [kanakpak saphea cheat khme].

NADK Denounces UN-Organized Elections

BK0103060993 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] At a meeting of the secretariat of the Mixed Military Working Group held at the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] headquarters in Phnom Penh on 24 February, General Prum Kasem, representative of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea, spoke about the lack of a neutral political climate and general elections in Cambodia. The following is the significance of his address:

The national and international opinions have clearly seen that the current situation in Cambodia is without a neutral political environment. The Yuon [derogatory term for Vietnamese] aggressor forces, both old and new, are everywhere in the country. These forces, with the complicity from the alliances inside and outside UNTAC, are directly cooperating with the Yuon puppets to violate and trample on the Paris 23 October 1991 accord. And the Yuon and their puppets are joining forces to carry out acts of political terrorism and fascism against and assassination of the people and various political parties in the most cruel and barbarous manner. Concerning this issue, Prince Norodom Sihanouk—head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC]—in his statement dated 14 December 1992, clearly said: The current situation in my motherland is the gloomiest. Cambodia is moving toward disintegration and downfall.

As for elections to be held by UNTAC in a situation where a neutral political climate does not exist, how will they affect the Cambodian nation, people, and race? The Cambodian nation and people inside and outside the country have already seen the darkest stratagem jointly concocted by the Yuon aggressors and their puppets and the alliances inside and outside UNTAC to irresponsibly organize the elections with the intention of legitimizing the Yuon's swallowing of Cambodia. Their joint action is tantamount to doing away with the Cambodian nation, people, and race. That being the case, the Cambodian nation and people can never remain hand-crossed and let the Yuon aggressors, the Yuon puppets, and the alliances inside and outside UNTAC to eliminate them at will. No matter what, they will continue their struggle against the Yuon aggressors in order to allow the Cambodian nation, people, and race to live in peace within Cambodia's independence and territorial boundaries.

PDK Spokesman Speaks Out Against Elections

BK0103062593 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] At a news conference held at the office of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] in Phnom Penh on 26 February, the PDK spokesman said the Cambodian people will not participate in elections organized by UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] to allow the Yuon [derogatory term for Vietnamese] to further invade and occupy Cambodia, swallowing the country and exterminating the Cambodian race in the end. The spokesman added that various reports have blatantly shouted that several million people have registered for elections. These reports are, in fact, nothing but propaganda aimed at fooling the national and international opinions into supporting and taking part in the manipulative elections organized by UNTAC and the Yuon in a situation where insecurity is widespread across the country and a neutral political climate does not exist in conformity with the Paris accord.

What is actually behind the reports on the number of the registered voters? Everybody knows that at present the Cambodian people have not the slightest bit of confidence in UNTAC because they have clearly seen that UNTAC is siding with and is completely in collusion with the Yuon invaders and their puppets. UNTAC has not implemented the Paris accord, verified and controlled the withdrawal of the Yuon aggressors from Cambodia, allowed the Supreme National Council [SNC] to have a role, and cooperated with the SNC to run the five ministries. On the contrary, UNTAC, in complicity with the Yuon and their puppets, has created insecurity and committed acts of political terrorism and fascism and assassinations against the people and different political parties.

In such a situation, how can the Cambodian people be happy to participate in the elections? The people are absolutely opposed to the elections since they have clearly realized that if they take part in the elections, this is tantamount to allowing the Yuon aggressors to legally swallow Cambodia. Actually, only the Yuon have become actively involved in these manipulative elections. The Yuon in Cambodia now number over 2 million, including more than 1.3 million who hold

Cambodian identity cards and who have already registered as voters with UNTAC since November 1992. As for new Yuon, they continue to flow in Cambodia ceaselessly. Yuon settlers, who arrived in Kompong Cham, Kratie, Kampot, and Koh Kong as well as other provinces in the last few months, insolently and arrogantly told the Cambodian people that they came to Cambodia to vote and to stay forever.

The alliances inside and outside UNTAC have already determined the results of the manipulative elections since November 1992. They will make the puppets win the elections because their goal is to preserve the Yuon puppet regime, and they will make other political parties join the Yuon puppets to form a single party in Cambodia, that is the Yuon puppets' party. This is aimed at further maintaining the Yuon aggressor forces and millions of Yuon citizens in the country.

The spokesman pointed out that the PDK, like the Cambodian people inside and outside the country, wants to correctly and scrupulously implement the Paris accord. It is resolutely against the manipulative elections designed to rubber-stamp the Yuon's swallowing Cambodia, killing the Cambodian nation and people, and exterminating the Cambodian race.

KR Radio Says Pursat Attack Defeated 13 Feb

BK2802035893 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] According to reports by the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK], the Yuon [derogatory term for Vietnamese] aggressors and their puppets—the Pursat provincial troops—gathered roughly a regiment of soldiers to attack the liberated zones controlled by the Party of Democratic Kampuchea in Bakan District, Pursat Province, in an attempt to seize the area from Democratic Kampuchea.

The reports also indicate that the NADK completely defeated this attack by the Yuon aggressors and their puppets on 13 February. As a result, the NADK destroyed a number of assorted weapons and killed three enemy soldiers and wounded nine others.

The attack by the Yuon aggressors and their puppets was a barbarous and savage act; it violated the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement and affected the lives and property of the Cambodian people. The Cambodian people have more clearly seen the face of the Yuon aggressors and puppets. They realize that the Yuon aggressors and their puppets are the ones carrying out terrorist and fascist activities to kill the Cambodian nation, people, and race.

KR Military Activities in Kompong Cham Reported

BK2802081893 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] On 23 February a group of about 20 Khmer Rouge soldiers from Regiment 550 of Division (?785) attacked a position of our Armed Forces in Tang Krasang Commune in Batheay District, Kompong Cham Province. One of our soldiers was wounded and another killed.

A day earlier, on 22 February, 10 Khmer Rouge soldiers entered (Bek Peang) village in (Chorea) Commune and abducted and barbarously killed a former district policeman named (Seng Sam-oeun).

Our people appeal to the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia and the international community to take firm measures to stop the crimes by the Khmer Rouge who not only cause loss of lives of innocent people, but also the loss of a neutral political atmosphere in Cambodia.

Activities in Siem Reap Reported

BK2802082893 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] On 18 February in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province, seven Khmer Rouge soldiers rounded up about 80 people in Trapeang Run, Kroes, and Russei Toun communes in Chikreng district [words indistinct].

The Khmer Rouge forced people not to believe UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] propaganda; took away 70 poll registration cards; and threatened to execute anyone refusing to hand over their cards.

On 19 February, they made a threat and announced the dissolution of our local state authority. They prohibited people from carrying out state activities; those who disobeyed would be killed.

On 21 February the Khmer Rouge rounded up people in Svay village in [words indistinct] district along with 50 oxcarts to transport ammunition from (?Anlung Kang) to (?Prich Thmei) and (?Khnat) villages in Sre Svay commune, in an attempt to destroy the people's [words indistinct].

On 22 February, three Khmer Rouge ambushed and took away a policeman's K-59 weapon in Varin district along with 90,000 riel.

Chea Sim, Tie Banh Visit 4th Military Region

BK2802085393 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] At 1600 on 26 February, His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee and of the National Assembly and the National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense, accompanied by H.E. General Tie Banh, member of the Standing Committee of the CPP Central Committee, vice chairman of the State of Cambodia [SOC] Council of Ministers, and defense minister of the SOC National Defense Ministry, and many leading officials visited cadres and combatants in the 4th Military Region, taking along some gifts, including cigarettes, foodstuffs, medicine, and some money for distribution.

On this occasion, Lieutenant General Long Sopheap, commander of the 4th Military Region, welcomed the presence of H.E. Chea Sim, who took time off from his busy schedule to visit our cadres and combatants. Long Sopheap talked about the resolute determination of cadres and combatants in the 4th Military Region who have made all-out efforts for the cause of defending our people's lives, particularly defending social and national gains to absolutely prevent the genocidal Pol Pot-Ieng Sary-Khieu Samphan regime from returning to massacre the Cambodian people again.

Speaking on this occasion, H.E. Chea Sim expressed his sentiments for cadres and combatants in the 4th Military Region for their outstanding achievements in the task of defending the motherland. He also talked about the perfidious maneuvers of the Khmer Rouge, who continue to launch barbarous attacks on our innocent people, killing or wounding hundreds of them. H.E. Chea Sim called on our cadres and combatants to pay attention to carrying out their task and defending the cause of the nation and people.

Chea Sim Visits Siem Reap 27 Feb

BK0103080793 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] On the morning of 27 February at the Pedagogic and Critique School in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province, His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee, National Assembly, and Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense, accompanied by H.E. General Tie Banh, member of the Standing Committee of the CPP Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and defense minister of the State of Cambodia [SOC]; and many officials and personages, called on and distributed gifts and a sum of money to monks, ethnic nationalities, officials, combatants, police forces, and people.

Speaking on that get-together, H.E. Chea Sim extended his best regards to monks and people in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province. He spoke on the stand of the CPP and SOC government and their great efforts made for the interests of the nation and people, particularly in implementing the Paris peace agreement. He added that on the contrary, during the past over a year after the signing of the agreement, the Khmer Rouge faction continued to launch cruel and barbarous activities and attacks on our people, thus causing great difficulties to people in some provinces.

H.E. Chea Sim noted that despite all activities by Khmer Rouge faction, the SOC government would absolutely not allow the most despicable genocidal regime to return to massacre our people again.

Tie Banh Pays 'Working Visit' to Siem Reap

BK0103090993 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] A Defense Ministry delegation led by General [Gen.] Tie Banh, member of the Standing Committee of the Cambodian People's Committee Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, defense minister, and member of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, recently paid a working visit to Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province.

Welcoming the delegation at Siem Reap airport were Neou Sam, chairman of the provincial party and people's committees; Major General Meas Thang of the 4th Military Region Command; and many military officers in the 4th Military Region and police forces in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province.

The Defense Ministry delegation led by Gen. Tie Banh visited leading officers and noncommissioned officers of the two armed forces—army and police—on 25 February.

Gen. Tie Banh praised the armed forces for their success in providing security for the people, thwarting violations by Khmer Rouge rebels, and for checking terrorist acts and armed robbery, thus enabling the people to lead a peaceful life. The general stressed that, until now, the implementation of the peace agreement has moved forward. Our State of Cambodia has sincerely implemented the peace agreement—as in troop regroupment, 70-percent demobilization, and disarming. But on the contrary, the Khmer Rouge rebels have not respected the agreement and have committed serious violations.

The general added that at this beginning of the dry season, the Khmer Rouge rebels have sent troops to invade various areas controlled by the Cambodian People's Armed Forces, thus compelling our CPAF to use their right to self-defense in order to provide security for the people.

Gen. Tie Banh also exhorted the two armed forces—army and police—to strictly abide by their discipline, thus preserving their good traditions and ethics of being armymen and policemen of the people; to unite as one; and to join in implementing the Paris peace agreement so as to bring about genuine peace in the future.

Indonesia

Minister: Yen Appreciation Increases Debt Burden

BK2702070293 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0558 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Jakarta, Feb 27 (ANTARA)—Minister of Trade Arifin Siregar stated here Friday that appreciation of yen or U.S. dollar to rupiah will promote competitiveness of Indonesia's export commodities.

"If yen appreciation to rupiahs keeps on going, our export products will get cheaper prices at Japan's market. So it will promote our export competitiveness," Arifin said, adding that the yen appreciation will consequently increase Indonesia's foreign debt burden.

While as a result of the yen appreciation, Japan's imported products in Indonesia will be more expensive, he said commenting on the strengthening of the yen in the international money market.

Since last week the yen has strenghened in New York market and other international markets following a new economy policy launched by Japanese Finance Minister Yoshihiro Hayasahi prior to the G-7 summit meeting in Tokyo this weekend.

OPEC Situation Not Affecting Income

BK2702060693 Jakarta THE INDONESIA TIMES in English 12 Feb 93 p 2

[Text] The 12 members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) are scheduled to convene another of its ministerial-level meeting in Vienna on February 12 amids a decline in oil prices on the world market due to overproduction by some of them. The two things, i.e. OPEC's ministerial conference and falling prices, are a regular inter-connected feature over the years.

Not surprisingly, this gives rise to allegations that OPEC states are involved in speculative measures. On the one hand, members attending the ministerial meeting would approve a decision to carry out production cuts under a scheme of quotas and, on the other, allow some of them to violate their assigned quota in order to cover current losses.

The result usually is a declining market price in a situation of growing oil output. Until the next round of ministerial-level talks.

Minister of Mines and Energy Ginandjar Kartasasmita told newsmen recently that he estimated the current oil production output of all OPEC member countries at 24.9 million barrels per day while the previously agreed quota was 24.58 million barrels per day. This caused oil price on the oil market to drop below the U.S.$21 a barrel reference price.

The minister said that the Indonesian government would propose a production cut in order to raise the market price of oil to OPEC's reference price. Meanwhile, some member countries have agreed to support a plan to slash output by about one million barrels per day.

Evidently, the scheme benefits rich OPEC countries only. The small and poorer members, on the other hand, are dissatisfied with the arrangement forcing some of them to pull out from the organisation or in the process of doing so.

The only logical conclusion one makes of the situation faced by the organisation is that its leaders would have to draw up other schemes for maintaining production levels as well as price if it wished to avert a total breakup. Happily, the erratic situation is in no way undermining Indonesia's projected earning from the oil sector.

At least, this was the picture for the current fiscal year. The Indonesian government, in fact, expects to collect an extra amount of revenue from the oil and gas sector although the money will be put on reserve to offset any likely shortfall in the next fiscal year.

Suharto Hears Prawiro's Report on Burma Trip

BK0203133193 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Radius Prawiro, minister for Economics, Finance, Industry, and Development Supervision, this morning made a report to President Suharto on his recent visit to Burma. During his meeting with the president, Radius Prawiro said Burma is currently involved in developing its national economy by promoting foreign and domestic capital investments. It is also embarking on market orientation.

According to Radius Prawiro, Burma's economic situation is steadily improving even though the country has yet to solve certain issues. In this connection, Burma will send its officials to Indonesia to study the country's accomplishments in forest management and agriculture.

Burma has good forests and plans to hold them as perpetual natural resources. The country also plans to make a comeback as one of the world's major rice cultivators. The country is currently embarking on fertilizer production to achieve this goal.

Laos

23-Member Interparliamentary Committee Proposed

BK0103081993 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0810 GMT 25 Feb 93

[Statement by Saman Vi-gnaket, chairman of the third National Assembly, at the 25 February meeting of the Third National Assembly in Vientiane—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] I hereby propose the appointment of the Interparliamentary Committee of the LPDR as follows:

1. Dr. Khamliang Phonsena, member of the National Assembly Standing Committee and chief of the Commission for Foreign Relations, to be chairman of the Committee;

2. Viset Savengseuksa, member of the National Assembly and deputy chief of the Commission for Foreign Relations, to be deputy chairman;

3. Noubeng Chanthasak, member of the National Assembly and deputy chief of the Secretariat Commission, to be secretary.

I also propose the appointment of 23 members of the Interparliamentary Committee of the LPDR as follows:

1. Dr. Khamliang Phonsena, member of the National Assembly Standing Committee and chief of the Commission for Foreign Relations, to be chairman;

2. Viset Savengseuksa, member of the National Assembly and deputy chief of the Commission for Foreign Relations, to be deputy chairman;

3. Noubeng Chanthasak, member of the National Assembly and deputy chief of the Secretariat Commission, to be secretary;

4. Souphanthaheuangsi Sisaleumsak, member of the National Assembly and deputy chief of the Commission for Foreign Relations, to be member;

5. Bouasi Lovansai, member of the National Assembly and deputy chief of the Commission for Economy, Planning, and Finance, to be member;

6. Bounthan Souvannasouk, member of the National Assembly and deputy chief of the Commission of Economy, Planning, and Finance, to be member;

7. Dr. Siho Bannavong, member of the National Assembly and deputy chief of the Commission for Education, Cultural, and Social Affairs, to be member;

8. Keyoun Gnot-saiviboun, member of the National Assembly and deputy chief of the Commission for Legal Affairs, to be member;

9. Saman Souvannasao, member of the National Assembly and deputy chief of the Commission for Legal Affairs, to be member;

10. Nouphat Chounlamani, member of the National Assembly, to be member;

11. Khamphong Soulinphoumi, member of the National Assembly, to be member;

12. Dr. Si Boulommavong, member of the National Assembly, to be member;

13. Phandouangchit Vongsa, member of the National Assembly, to be member;

14. Brigadier General Saisompheng Souli-gnavong, member of the National Assembly, to be member;

15. Ms. Vongkham Southammavong, member of the National Assembly, to be member;

16. Sing Sai-gnabouasi, member of the National Assembly, to be member;

17. Ms. Bounpheng Boualapha, member of the National Assembly, to be member;

18. Bounlat Veuaivanitsavong, member of the National Assembly, to be member;

19. Sisouk Sisombat, member of the National Assembly, to be member;

20. Sombat Yialiheu, member of the National Assembly, to be member;

21. Bountoum Detvongsa, member of the National Assembly, to be member;

22. Somphon Kha-gnong-ek, member of the National Assembly, to be member;

23. Tongyeutho, member of the National Assembly, to be member.

I now ask the meeting for opinions and recommendation.

Philippines

DFA Official Says U.S. President 'Might Visit'

HK0203024993 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] A high ranking Department of Foreign Affairs [DFA] official has said that there is a possibility that U.S. President Bill Clinton will visit the country before the conclusion of the G-7 Economic Summit, to be held in Tokyo in July. The official, who refused to be identified, said Clinton might visit in an effort to learn more about the present economic conditions of Asian countries. However, the pronouncement was denied by another DFA official, who said that Clinton might deal with reform in the United States before planning to visit various Asian nations.

Ramos Creates Intellectual Property Rights Body

HK0203093093 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 2 Mar 93 p 2

[Text] President Ramos has signed an executive order creating an interagency committee on intellectual property rights (IPR).

This move is expected to boost the country's chances of getting good marks from the United States which has been pressuring Government to clamp down on IPR violators.

The U.S. had included the Philippines in the priority watch list category of its Super 301 roster of IPR violators.

This is just one step away from the more dangerous category—the foreign country watch list. Inclusion in this category could lead to serious trade sanctions like the removal of preferential quotas and free tariff privileges under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).

Some 50% of Philippine exports to the U.S. enter free of duty because of GSP or a most favored nation (MFN) duty rate of 0%.

The Philippines is in the thick of negotiations with the office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) over the IPR issue.

The USTR is scheduled to come out with the new Super 301 watch list by April this year.

Under Executive order No. 60, which was signed by Mr. Ramos last Friday, 13 agencies from both government and private sectors will monitor IPR violators in the country.

The committee is also expected to "prepare and implement a fast-track anti-piracy and counterfeiting plan of action" and will recommend IPR issuances and legislation to the President and Congress.

Trade and Industry Secretary Rizalino S. Navarro will act as chairman of the committee while the secretaries of the Departments of Justice and Finance will be vice-chairmen.

The other members of the committee are the presidential legal adviser, the director of the National Bureau of Investigation, the director-general of the Philippine National Police, the commissioner of the Bureau of Customs, the chairman of the Videogram Regulatory Board, the commissioner of the National Telecommunications Commission, the chief of the Copyright Office of the National Library, the director of the Bureau of Patents, Trademarks and Technology Transfer, the director of the Bureau of Trade Regulations and Consumer Protection, and one representative each from two major nongovernmental organizations involved in the protection and promotion of IPR.

Meanwhile, businessman Raul T. Concepcion yesterday urged Economic Planning Secretary Cielito Habito to postpone for 60 days a draft executive order which will increase the margin of preference (MOP) or tariff discounts to other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Police Find More Bombs in Zamboanga

HK0203023093 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Police authorities have found 18 more bombs in various locations in Zamboanga City. Security has been tightened, especially after receiving unconfirmed reports that some Muslim bandits from Sabah have arrived in several towns in the province.

Manila To Issue Communist Leader Travel Papers

HK2702045393 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] The government has agreed to issue travel documents to exiled communist leader Jose Maria Sison to enable him return to the country. National Unification Commission [NUC] chairperson Haydee Yorac said the government is now waiting for Sison's application for these documents so that he can participate in the peace negotiations being pursued in the Philippines. Yorac met with President Ramos after Sison expressed his wish to return to the country. The NUC chairperson is hoping that this new development will pave the way for the formal opening of peace talks between the government and the Communist Party.

May Negotiate With Sison

HK0203091093 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 2 Mar 93 p 7

[Report by Frank Longid Jr.]

[Text] The Government is considering negotiating with exiled communist party founder Jose Ma. [Maria] Sison, and not National Democratic Front (NDF) spokesperson Luis Jalandoni who has reportedly assumed Dutch citizenship.

This was disclosed yesterday by Defense Secretary Renato de Villa, a member of the National Unification Commission (NUC), who said Jalandoni could still participate in the peace talks.

"Sison, who is reportedly at odds with local communist leaders, has repeatedly refused to deal with the Ramos government citing various reasons.

Last week, he turned down a government offer to give him travel documents that would enable him to come home for the peace negotiations and leave after.

He reasoned he deserved being issued anew a passport, saying it was his right as a Filipino citizen to be granted such. His previous passport was canceled by the Aquino administration when he resumed his rebel activities.

De Villa said the NUC might have to exclude Jalandoni, a former Catholic priest who sought asylum in the Netherlands, since he was already a Dutch citizen.

Although Sison has denied reports that he had reassumed chairmanship of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), de Villa said "in our view it is Sison who is calling the shots."

Earlier, the AFP Civil Relations Service stated that Sison still wields considerable influence within the CPP, its military arm the New People's Army (NPA), and the NDF.

Military intelligence reports indicated that Sison was re-elected CPP chairman in a plenum last year. But some CPP-NPA commands—mostly in the Visayas, Metro Manila and Rizal province—considered the plenum as bogus and illegitimate due to an alleged absence of a quorum.

De Villa said the government was expecting Sison to eventually lead the negotiations because of complications over Jalandoni's Dutch citizenship.

But Satur Ocampo, who acted as chief NDF negotiator during the abortive 1986 peace talks, said it was for the NDF and not the government to decide who will represent the communists during peace negotiations.

In a telephone interview, he said that the decision for Jalandoni to represent the NDF still stands. "He is still the only authorized representative of the NDF."

Late last year Sison had traded barbs with CPP leaders Romulo Kintanar, Ricardo Reyes and Benjamin de Veyra whom he branded as "renegades."

Sison accused the three of being military agents to which Kintanar replied by labelling Sison as a "mere observer" of the revolutionary struggle.

A former rebel identified with Kintanar's group said they continue to recognize Jalandoni, and not Sison as the NDF representative authorized to deal with government.

De Villa also said there was mounting pressure for government to abandon the exploratory talks with the Dutch-based communist leaders and start negotiating with their local counterparts.

But De Villa said they would continue pursuing the policy of dealing only with Sison and Jalandoni.

Meanwhile government troopers foiled an attempt by suspected NPA rebels to sabotage a transmission tower of the National Power Corp. (Napocor) in barangay Linongan in Carmen, North Cotabato over the weekend.

Military reports said troops from the 35th Infantry Battalion and 2nd Cafgu [Citizen's Armed Forces Geographical Unit] Company repulsed a 20-man NPA group after a 15-minute firefight.

The NPA band was reportedly attempting to topple down a Napocor tower in the upland barangay.

Ramos Extends NUC Term Until 30 June

HK0103101093 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 1 Mar 93 p 7

[Report by Joey Caburnida]

[Text] President Ramos has ordered the extension until June 30 of the National Unification Commission's (NUC) term to enable it to come up with a comprehensive report and recommendations on the peace negotiations.

The NUC instead will submit to the President its initial reports and recommendations on March 16, the day the ad hoc peace body was originally scheduled to end its term.

This was disclosed yesterday by Monsignor Fernando Capalla, NUC vice chairman, after reporting on the series of regional consultations the NUC held with various groups involved in the ongoing peace process.

Defense Secretary Renato de Villa, who was with Capalla and Rep. Jose Yap in Tacloban City yesterday to conduct talks with their counterparts in the Eastern Visayas, said the NUC would submit a preliminary report to Malacanang on March 16.

At the same time, de Villa called on the National Democratic Front (NDF) to clarify its proposal for a coalition government which the leftist coalition, through its Eastern Visayas chapter, raised for the first time as part of a possible framework for its formal talks with the government.

"It is easy to raise ideas but it is another thing to consider it for application," De Villa said as he called on the NDF's Eastern Visayas chapter to come up with a clear position on their demand.

Military, NDF Leaders Meet Police Press Corps

HK0103090493 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 28 Feb 93 p B-29

[Text] Malolos—Bulacan newsmen wrote a first in this historic capital town last Friday when they played host to an unprecedented public meeting of cashiered Lt. Col. Gregorio 'Gringo' Honasan and former National Democratic Front spokesman Satur Ocampo.

The meeting of the so-called ideological leaders of the extreme left and extreme right happened during the induction ceremonies of the officers of the newly-formed Bulacan PNP [Philippine National Police] Press Corps (BPPC) headed by correspondent Orlan Mauricio.

Ocampo, a former newsman himself before joining the underground movement upon the declaration of martial law in 1972, inducted into office the founding officers of the BPPC, while Honasan, an EDSA [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue] hero and leader of the Reform the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Movement (RAM-SFP-YOU) [Soldiers of the Filipino People-Young Officers Union], was the guest speaker during the four-hour affair held at the Paradise Resort in Bgy. Sta. [Barangay Santa], Isabel, Malolos.

The occasion, attended by Bulacan board members, police chiefs, Vice Gov. [Governor] Josie dela Cruz and Congressman Angelito Sarmiento (4th District), also became an emotional reunion between Honasan and Bulacan PNP provincial Director Supt. [Superintendent] Reynaldo Acop.

Honasan and Acop are both members of the famous PMA [Philippine Military Academy] class of 1971 that played key roles in the 1986 EDSA revolution, exactly seven years ago.

During the affair, the two underground celebrities obliged to an open forum requested by the jampacked crowd that was often interrupted by teeners and resort visitors who haggled for souvenir photos and autographs.

Although Honasan and Ocampo have divergent views in their personal principle and struggles, the two, ironically, shared the same platform on problems plaguing the country which they identified as agrarian reform, human rights violation, justice, bureaucracy in the civil service, massive corruption, and energy crisis.

On the otherhand, Congressman Sarmiento shared the view of Honasan that there should be a systematic and people-oriented peace process thru consultation that will eventually define and change the course of our country's economic direction.

Honasan and Ocampo also hailed the formation of the BPPC which unified all mediamen in the province under one umbrella organization. "The BPPC is a model for all fragmented factions of press clubs in other provinces to emulate," the two leaders said.

Vice Gov. Josie dela Cruz also lauded the founding of the BPPC as a positive move that will check the proliferation of unscrupulous newsmen in provinces who use the power of their press cards in extortion activities.

Aside Mauricio, other officers of the BPPC were Rey Domingo, Exec vice-pres [executive vice president (VP)]; Ledy Tantoco, VP-broadcast; Jun Borlongan, VP-print; Pete Gosuico, secretary; R[illegible]y Reyes, treasurer; directors were: Peping Raymundo, Emil Gamos, Pete Buluran, Eusebio Cruz, Arthur Angeles, Maricar Evangelista, Eric Silverio and Omar Padilla.

Asset Privatization Yields Further P3.77 Billion

HK0103095493 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 1 Mar 93 p B-1

[Text] The Asset Privatization Trust (APT) managed to raise an additional P3.77 billion [Philippine pesos] last year from the disposition of 27 of the "hard-to sell" accounts remaining under its wing.

This brought to P32.437 billion the total sales generated by the APT from the 293 assets auctioned off since 1987. The assets were among 419 accounts, which were mostly transferred by the Philippine National Bank and the Development Bank of the Philippines in 1986.

APT, whose corporate life has been extended until December this year, originally estimated that the recoverable value of the non-performing transferred accounts could only reach P25 billion. The government's exposure in these firms had ballooned to P125 billion, prior to the transfer to the privatization agency.

Based on the report released by the APT, a total of 235 assets had been fully sold and 58 others had been disposed of partially. About 36 percent of the privatized accounts was sold through public bidding while the rest was acquired by private groups through direct debt buyout, compromise or negotiated sale.

APT, the report showed, already remitted to the Bureau of Treasury for the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) a total of P19.817 billion as of end-December last year.

The sale consummated during the six-year period still leaves the APT 161 transferred assets and six other accounts from government-owned and controlled corporations for disposition.

The remaining accounts include 58 physical assets, 85 financial-form assets and 24 equity investments.

Of the undisposed assets, it expects to generate the bulk from three major firms namely, Paper Industries Corp. [PICOP] of the Philippines, North Davao Mining Corp. and North Cotabato Sugar Industries, Inc.

Based on estimates, PICOP could fetch at least P800 million; North Davao, P500 million; and North Cotabato Sugar, P155 million.

Thailand

Senate Passes Budget Bill 1 Mar

BK0203023193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Mar 93 p 3

[Text] The Senate yesterday voted unanimously to pass the 560,000 million baht Budget Bill for fiscal 1993.

The Upper House spent less than three hours debating the bill after it was approved by the House of Representatives early Saturday after three days of marathon debate.

Some senators expressed doubts about the Government's ability to disperse the budget efficiently within the remaining seven months of the fiscal year.

There were also concerns over the alleged allocation of government funds for political gain by some MPs.

Phunsak Wannaphong said the Constitution was absolute and article 146 prohibited MPs from seeking to raise the budget.

He said he supported the MP development fund though and urged the Government to formalise it by assigning either the Prime Minister's Office of Parliament to oversee the allocations from the budget and to specify the exact amount to be expended.

The senator said this would solve the problems whereby members of the House Budget Scrutiny Committee try to trim the budget into a pool for reallocation.

Kowit Surasawati called on the Senate to give importance to monitoring the efficiency of government spending.

Wichai Thosuwanchin said it was regrettable the bill to establish the Labour Ministry was not passed during the extraordinary session.

The Opposition walkout on Saturday prevented consideration of the bill.

He said the Government had not yet set aside the funding and manpower in preparation for the establishment of the ministry.

A Royal Command declaring the extraordinary session closed as of today was read at the end of yesterday's senate meeting.

Wimon Remarks on MP's Call for Military Coup

BK0203022793 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Mar 93 pp 1, 3

[Text] Military leaders yesterday dismissed angry calls from some opposition MPs for the military to stage a coup d'etat against the Government. They said such action would never be taken. Army Commander-in-Chief Gen. Wimon Wongwanit said the comment was made in anger and such action could not occur. Gen. Wimon said he did not think there would be any more coups but he could not give an assurance in case "someone else does it".

Gen. Wimon, who turned 59 yesterday and was receiving well-wishers at his home, said he had only one year left in service and would do his duty as best he could. But it is also up to politicians, other soldiers and the media to also do their duty well, he said.

Air Force Commander-in-Chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kan Phimanthip said there was no chance of a coup d'etat. But there was no problem with people calling for a coup as the military would not take action.

Deputy Defence Minister Maj-Gen Sombat Rotphothong said the call for a coup was emotional and the military had already said they would not respond. The military budget request for weapons was fiercely attacked in Parliament, to which Maj-Gen Sombat said the military had already "stepped to the back of the soi [alley]" and people should not push them further. He said he did not think the criticism of the budget would lead to anything.

The Campaign for Popular Democracy has called on all senators to resign since they were appointed by coup makers—the now-defunct National Peace-keeping Council.

Maj-Gen Sombat said some military officers in the Senate really did not want to be there and were ready to resign.

Chat Thai MP Chai Chitchop, who made the call for a coup during Saturday's opposition walkout of the House meeting to protest against the Government, was nowhere to be found yesterday. He has been heavily criticised for the comment but attempts to reach him at his Bangkok home proved fruitless. He is believed to be riding out the controversy in his home constituency of Buri Ram.

One Democrat MP Alongkon Phalubut, attacked Mr. Chai, saying any MP who called for a coup d'etat did not deserve the honour of sitting in the House.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Chuan Likphai said in an interview published in Hong Kong that the Government would not bring about conditions for a military coup.

"I believe that during my term of office, my Government will not create conditions for a coup" Chuan told the latest edition of Asian Business.

"I am confident that the current military leadership does not in any way wish to resort to those measures again."

He said the five-party coalition Government was strong and stable, in contrast to the recent past when government appeared strong only in times of dictatorial rule or just after a coup. But the country can no longer afford to continue its pattern of economic growth independent of political development, he said.

"Development of the economy and democracy must go hand in hand."

Mr. Chuan said a military coup just over a year earlier had the same effect.

"It seemed to be acceptable, in fact even popular, at least for a short time. Then, confidence from the foreign sector began to evaporate," he said.

Senate Votes To Repeal Internal Peacekeeping Act

BK0103144193 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] The Senate today unanimously voted to repeal the Internal Peacekeeping Directorate Act. After endorsing the government budget bill, the senate today considered the bill to repeal the Internal Peacekeeping Directorate Act presented to the session by Defense Minister General Wichit Sukmak. Somphop Hot[illegible]it, chairman of the committee scrutinizing the bill, stressed the need to keep the Internal Peacekeeping Directorate Act. He even proposed that there should be another law to empower the prime minister, interior minister, and defense minister to make a final decision on implementation of this act.

After deliberations by senators, the defense minister proposed a vote in three readings by the session. The Senate unanimously voted to abolish the Internal Peacekeeping Directorate Act, which was forwarded by the House of Representatives. Prime Minister Chuan Likphai thanked the session before it adjourned.

USTR Reportedly Rejects Thai Drug Committee

BK0203082393 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 2 Mar 93 p 7

[Text] According to a report from the Commerce Ministry, the U.S. Trade Representative's office has declined to accept the appointment of the Medicine Patents Committee which was approved by the Thai Cabinet as proposed by the director of the Intellectual Property Department. The U.S. office said most members of the committee were producers of unpatented medicines and questioned if the Thai side believed it appropriate to appoint these individuals to inspect medicines which are properly produced and whose patents were purchased from patent holders.

Moreover, members of the committee will have access to information about production costs and other details from the producers and patent holders, at the same time they are engaged in medicine production without paying for patents. For this reason, the U.S. side does not want to reveal production costs to members of the committee who are private medicine producers.

According to a reporter, members of the committee who belong to the private sector are: Phonwit Phatcharintanakun, former president of the Medicine Producers Association; Wirasak Chieorungrot, chairman of the Drug Stores Club; Somyot Wanasawat, member of the Pharmacists Association; and Chomphunut Rungthapnapha, a drug trader.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commerce Minister Churin Laksanawisit has noted that the appointment of the committee is appropriate because the members belong to the medicine industry. The United States has complained repeatedly that the existence of the committee is not necessary. The committee's duty is to ensure that patented drugs are not overpriced and to set measures to solve the drug price problem.

Muslim Separatists Ruled Out in 25 Feb Explosion

BK2702030193 Bangkok THE NATION in English 27 Feb 93 p A5

[Text] The national police chief and the southern police commissioner presented contradictory theories yesterday about who was responsible for a bomb that exploded Thursday night outside an oil depot in Songkhla township, with the local official ruling out a link to Muslim separatists.

Local authorities said they were looking through lists of workers sacked from the depot in the past few months on the suspicion that the blast could have been an act of revenge.

No casualties were reported in the explosion, which occurred 20 metres from the Caltex depot at about 8 pm in Songkhla's Muang district. The blast damaged a large tree and part of the depot fence.

Regional police chief Kraisak Sinsuk said it was caused by a home-made device "which was not powerful enough to cause severe damage to the depot".

Police Director General Sawat Amonwiwat yesterday said he thought a communist separatist group, the Pattani United Liberation Organization (Pulo), could be responsible. The group is suspected of planting a bomb that killed three people at Hat Yai railway station in August. But Pol Lt Gen Kraisak said neither Pulo nor other Muslim separatist groups are known to operate in the area where the depot is located. He also said such groups would normally have left a note claiming responsibility. No such note has been found.

No separatists are known to have demanded protection fees from business people in the provincial seat, he added.

Kraisak also ruled out a business conflict as being behind the blast saying that whoever planted the bomb apparently did not intend to cause severe damage to the depot.

In Bangkok, Pol Gen Sawat said the explosion was caused by about 1 kilogramme of TNT and that the bomb was similar to the device used in the Hat Yai railway station bombing. Police believe four suspected Pulo members were responsible for the August bombing and that they fled over the border into Malaysia.

Caltex depot manager Thirasat Bunnak said he thought it was unlikely that separatists were involved in the blast because there had been no demand for protection fees. He also discounted the possibility that the explosion was motivated by a business conflict.

Songkhla Governor Wirachai Naeobunnian also said the area was outside the influence of separatist groups. The governor said he has ordered an investigation into whether any Caltex workers had been fired during the past two months.

Songkhia residents living near the depot said that five yeus ago they had rallied to demand the relocation of the oil facility because of fears that an accident could trigger an explosion at the site. They said they fear that the danger will increase in the coming dry season and they planned to stage another rally soon. But their fears were dismissed as groundless by the Caltex depot manager.

Thirasat said the depot was equipped with high-tech equipment to monitor and control the temperature of tanks and oil reserves to prevent possible explosions. Thirasat said the monitoring devices would tell depot officials to douse the tanks with water and chemicals to control the temperature when it reaches a certain level. He declined to comment on the demand by residents for the relocation of the depot, saying he had no authority to speak on the issue.

Wirachai said the authorities were discussing the residents' concerns with Caltex management. The governor asked Songkhla residents to cancel their planned rally. He said the company tentatively plans to relocate the depot but needs more time for preparations.

"Please be patient and call off the rally, we have already planned to relocate the depot," the governor said.

'Motives' of Government Policy on SLORC Questioned

BK2802021493 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 Feb 93 p A10

[Commentary by Marisa Chimprapha: "Be More Clear on Burma"]

[Text] Burma's direct reaction against Thailand for allowing a group of Nobel Peace Prize winners to launch their protest campaign against Rangoon, for the unconditional release of fellow laureate Aung San Suu Kyi and all other political prisoners, came sooner than expected.

Suu Kyi, the 1991 Nobel Peace laureate, and leader of the opposition National League for Democracy, has been detained under house arrest by the ruling Rangoon military junta since July 1 1989.

The State Law and Order Restoration Council's (Slorc) attacks came just three days after Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan returned from Rangoon on an official visit, during which he told reporters that the atmosphere was "fine" between both countries.

Surin's visit to Rangoon was to coincide with the four-day joint boundary meeting in Rangoon co-chaired by him together with his Burmese counterpart.

Slorc's reactions were expected but the lashing accusing Thailand of interfering in Burma's internal affairs was not expected to be published in all stateowned newspapers. Prime Minister Chuan Likphai in allowing the visit of the Nobel laureates said it would not affect Bangkok's bilateral relations with Burma, and Thailand being a free country should allow anyone in.

"Think what the international reaction would be if we didn't allow a group of Nobel Peace Prize winners into the country," he asked.

In Rangoon, the Thai delegation had indirectly hinted after their meeting with Slorc leaders that Burma was "dissatisfied" over Bangkok's decision to grant entry visas to the Nobel laureates.

The articles in Rangoon accused a neighboring country, without mentioning any names, of interfering in its internal affairs by supporting and giving encouragement to a group of Nobel laureates. They clearly point their fingers at Thailand.

On the last day of Surin's stay in Rangoon, where development projects involving bilateral cooperation were discussed including a route linking Thailand to China via Burma, Burmese troops abducted nine Thai workers in exchange for the release of two of their comrades.

Though the incident could not be linked to the visit of the Nobel laureates on their Burma protest mission, it however clearly showed that there was something seriously wrong in Bangkok's bilateral cooperation with Rangoon.

The first hint of Burma's dissatisfaction was when Burma's Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw told Surin that his country was a "little disturbed" over the visit of the Nobel laureates, but however understood Bangkok's stand. Ohn Gyaw's statement was again echoed by his deputy U Nyunt Swe who said that bilateral ties were unaffected.

With regard to the articles published by state-owned newspapers in Rangoon, a Burmese official said the strong criticisms by Slorc chief Maj Gen Khin Nyunt, reflected the views of the Burmese people. The official however praised Surin for working hard to soften Burma's reaction to the visit of the laureates.

But despite what Surin and Ohn Gyaw have said, an indisputable fact remains. The protest mission of the Nobel laureates has affected ties between Bangkok and Rangoon.

A senior Thai Foreign Ministry official cautioned that the country would face tougher times as Burma would certainly pay much closer attention to Thailand and will definitely question the motives of Bangkok's constructive engagement with Slorc.

Under constructive engagement, Burma's internal affairs would not be interfered upon by Thailand, in order to maintain a relationship with the military leaders in Rangoon.

But this constructive engagement was underminded [as published] when the Nobel laureates paid a courtesy call to Premier Chuan and Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri. Although the prime minister said he was meeting the laureates in his private capacity, this failed to allay Rangoon's suspicions over Bangkok's intentions.

Rangoon's outrage this week in the form of the articles could be in part to its confusion over Thailand's foreign policy.

But what actually is Thailand's foreign policy with regard to Burma? On the one hand, the Thai government officially acknowledges the presence of Slorc by signing the agreement on the Thai-Burmese Joint Commission. In direct contradiction, Bangkok provides a sanctuary for Burmese students in exile and are even ready to facilitate scholarships for them to study in third countries.

While the Thai military regards Slorc leaders as their fraternal brothers, they secretly support Burmese minority groups waging an armed struggle against the Rangoon junta along the Thai-Burmese border.

For the Burmese, the last straw was when the Thai government allowed the Nobel laureates in the country and later said it was committed to constructive engagement with Slorc.

Burma's first-ever harsh accusation against Thailand was an indication that the Rangoon junta ignored Surin's speech at the joint boundary meeting where he said: "Thailand is not a false friend [of Burma], who in good times shares but in bad times shuns." Thailand should be aware that it is not the only remaining friend of Burma in this region. China too is trying to exert itself in the post-Cold War Southeast Asia and has recently struck a very close relationship with Slorc in order to have access to the Bassein area of the Irrawady delta. At the Bassein area, Beijing is trying to build an extensive naval base to have access to the Indian Ocean and Andaman Sea. To date close to US$ 1.2 billion worth of weapons have been provided to Slorc by China.

Rangoon's accusation that Thailand is interfering in its internal affairs can be construed as a failure of the constructive engagement policy. Though several government offficials had earlier praised the policy of helping solve many mutual conflicts including the dispute over the hill 491 and the abduction of a district chief last year, its overall effectiveness in promoting Thai-Burma ties is subject to question.

The Thai government facing the onslaught of Burma's allegations, should re-consider its constructive engagement policy with the Slorc. Clearly Rangoon has ignored Thai attempts to motivate it to come into the fold of democracy by handing power back to the people and releasing Aung San Suu Kyi in response to international calls.

PRC Official Says No Weapons Sold to Burma

BK2702021593 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 Feb 93 p 7

[Text] China's Deputy Minister for the Weapons Industry, Zhang Junjiu, has assured Thai Army Commander Gen Wimon Wongwanit that his country has no policy to sell weapons to Burma, Army spokesman Col Phalangkun Klahan said yesterday. The spokesman said the commander asked Mr Zhang about the issue during their meeting at the Army Hall on Thursday.

Col Phalangkun said the Chinese deputy minister told Gen Wimon that China could not sell weapons to Burma as it was the government's policy to restrict such a practice.

"There is absolutely no such practice," the spokesman quoted Mr Zhang as saying.

Col Phalangkun said Army Operations Department director Maj Gen Chokchai Hongthong spoke to Mr Zhang during the meeting about Chinese weapons used by the Thai Army including T-69 tanks and 130mm artillery pieces. The colonel said the Army was satisfied with the Chinese weapons.

But Maj Gen Praphin Lomsombun, the director of the Army's Logistics Department, lodged a complaint with Mr Zhang that spare parts for Chinese weapons were expensive. The Army wanted the deputy minister to help resolve the problem by quoting fair and reasonable prices, Col Phalangkun said.

Col Phalangkun declined to comment when reporters said Mr Zhang's remark seemed to contradict the fact that Burma had obtained significant numbers of weapons from China.

One senior Thai military man earlier voiced concern about military developments in Burma, saying China has stepped up its military assistance to the country in past years.

Col Phalangkun said he did not know if Mr Zhang's visit was aimed at selling new weapons to the Army.

Commerce Ministry Approves Rice Sale to Iran

BK2702020193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 Feb 93 p 6

[Text] The Commerce Ministry yesterday signed an agreement to sell 400,000 tons of top-grade rice to Iran with 18 months' credit at 7.25 per cent interest, Deputy Prime Minister Amnuai Wirawan said at Parliament last night. The price agreed for the deal is $272.5 a ton and it would be rice from Government stocks which have been bought from farmers. About 50,000 tons will be delivered each month.

The ministry also agreed to sell 280,000 tons of 15 per cent rice and another 100,000 tons of broken rice to two private firms for export. The price agreed is $185 and $160 a ton, respectively. He said the exports will help shore up the local rice price.

Dr Amnuai said the Commerce Ministry will send officials to India to negotiate the sale of 25 per cent and 35 per cent rice to the New Delhi government.

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut will urge China to buy Thai rice when he begins a five-day visit to China tomorrow.

Vietnam

U.S. Paper's Criticism of Trade Embargo Cited

BK0203075093 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] The U.S. newspaper THE WALL STREET JOURNAL stresses that many U.S. companies are trying to get advantages in Vietnam by sending the representatives to the country. But they cannot do anything because of the U.S. trade embargo.

A report of the Hanoi Chamber of Commerce said: 130 American companies visited Vietnam last year, in comparison with only 20 companies in 1991. Companies which visited Vietnam last year were major corporations, such as Boeing, Kodak, Dupont, and Dunlop. Last month, representatives of 26 American big companies visited Vietnam. The group held discussions in Hanoi with senior officials of the Vietnamese Government on the possibility of doing business in the country.

Nevertheless, as commented by THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, those activities could only create little advantages to the Americans. The U.S. economic sanctions against Vietnam pinned American business in a poor position in Vietnam, compared to Western businessmen.

Then the White House's decision last September diluting U.S. punitive measures against Vietnam has reverted the situation. This decision was thought to be a good chance for U.S. industry to do business in Vietnam. In reality, this decision prompted Asian and European interests to develop more business contacts with Vietnam before the Americans pour into Vietnam.

(Usin Matthew), an American adviser in Hanoi said: It is much better for President Clinton to lift the embargo altogether so that American businessmen can have the opportunity to do business with Vietnam.

Do Muoi Visits Medical Institutes

BK2802093193 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] On the afternoon of 27 February and on the occasion of Vietnam Physician's Day, Comrade Do Muoi, general secretary of the Party Central Committee, visited the Traditional Medicine Institute and the Hygienics and Epidemics Institute in Hanoi.

During the friendly meeting with cadres, physicians, and other personnel of the Vietnam Traditional Medicine Institute, Comrade Do Muoi commended the institute for its achievements over the past 30 years, especially its efforts to inherit and develop valuable experiences in traditional medicine and combine them with modern medicine. The institute has significantly contributed to developing Vietnam's medicine and succesfully caring for the people's health.

The comrade urged the cadres, physicians, and other institute personnel to thoroughly study the resolution of the Party Central Committee fourth plenum and to formulate plans and programs with effective measures to successfully implement this resolution.

At the Hygienics and Epidemics Institute, the comrade general secretary especially paid attention to the efforts, achievements, and difficulties faced by scientists in the field of preventative medicine, an important task in the undertaking of taking care of the people's health.

Speaking to cadres and personnel at the institute, the Comrade General Secretary commended them for their efforts and successes. He urged them to thoroughly implement the motto: Prevention is better than a cure.

He recommended that the Public Health Ministry create favorable conditions for the Hygenics and Epidemics Institute to expand its scale of work and develop the production of vaccines and other preventative medicines, as well as to enhance international cooperation so as to build the institute into a scientific research center while engaging in production to meet requirements of the public health sector. The institute should improve its business and accounting system to promote investment and improve research and production.

The comrade also reminded the institute to pay more attention to formulating measures to increase the income of its cadres and personnel and to motivate them to study further to enhance their professional skills while accelerating the training task in order to build a contingent of competent scientific researchers.

Addresses Physician's Day Meeting

BK2802150993 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Station correspondent's report on 27 February Hanoi meeting to mark Vietnam Physician's Day—portions recorded]

[Summary] "Dear friends, this morning the Ministry of Public Health held a solemn meeting at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi to mark Vietnam's Physician's Day. Attending the function were Comrades Do Muoi, party general secretary; Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, president of of the Vietnam Fatherland Front's Presidium; and many heroic laborers of the public health sector, people's and outstanding physicians, people's and outstanding teachers, medical professors, doctors, pharmacists, maintenance workers, and technicians who have given meritorious services to the public health sector during the past few years. Also attending the function were representives of sectors, branches, and mass organizations at the central level."

Professor Doctor Nguyen Trong Nhan, minister of public health, delivered an opening speech, saying:

[Begin Nguyen Trong Nhan recording] "This year we commemorate Vietnam Physician's Day, 27 February, after the Party Central Committee Fourth Plenum issued a resolution on urgent tasks in caring for and protection of the people's health. This is the first time the Party Central Committee has spent much time discussing strategies to improve the human factor. The Party Central Committee has also decided on many important issues related to the concepts, objectives, and major policies on caring for and protection of the people's health. On behalf of the public health sector, I sincerely thank the Comrade General Secretary for attending this meeting to mark Vietnam Physician's Day. The presence of the comrade, once again, manifests the party's special attention to ensuring the people's health." [end recording]

Dear friends, after reviewing activities, shortcomings, and achievements scored by the public health sector during the past period, Comade Nguyen Trong Nhan said:

[Begin Nguyen Trong Nhan recording] "On the occasion of Vietnam Physician's Day, on behalf of the Ministry of Public Health, I would like to convey my best wishes to all cadres and personnel of the public health sector. I urge all cadres, workers, and personnel of the sector, as well as professors, doctors, pharmacists, engineers, nurses, medical students, technicians, maintenance workers, and managerial cadres of various echelons, to strive to bring the past achievements into full play while realizing their duties in the present situation; strive to strengthen unity; integrate efforts to make notable progress; and overcome difficulties and ordeals while striving to meet requirements of the tasks on caring for and protection of the people's health in the new situation. I also would like to express my gratitude to party organizations, the government, sectors, mass organizations, and societies—the Red Cross Society in particular—for their support and assistance to the public health sector during the past period. I hope the sector will receive more assistance in the days ahead so as to triumphantly carry out its duties of caring for and protecting the people's health." [applause] [end recording]

Afterward, Professor Nguyen Trong Nhan, on behalf of the Vietnam Red Cross Society and the public health sector, presented to Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi the Red Cross Medal and the People's Health Medal, in recognition of the general secretary's special attention to tasks promoting the happiness of the masses. This was followed by the presentation of bouquets to Comrade Do Muoi by representatives of the Vietnamese children.

"Amid the jubilant atmosphere, Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi said:"

[Begin Do Muoi recording] "Today, commemorating Vietnam Physician's Day, I am very delighted to meet a large number of professors, doctors, pharmacists, cadres, and personnel of the medical and pharmaceutical sectors. I cordially extend my best wishes to you, comrades, on the occasion of this traditional day, and through you I extend the kind regards of the Party Central Committee to all physicians, cadres, and personnel of the medical and phamarceutical sectors. [applause]

"Dear comrades, our party, state, and people always highly value and are grateful for the great contributions of the contingent of Vietnamese physicians and public health cadres who have worked selflessly for the people's health and who are striving to score more achievements in the renovation undertaking. Despite numerous difficulties, you comrades have made great efforts in the prevention of diseases and treatment of patients, in carrying out the population and family planning work, in improving the mother and child care program, in promoting scientific research and training of cadres, and in combining traditional medicine with modern medicine and so forth, thus setting creative and bold examples in the public health activities.

"The new generation of physicians who work selflessly, diligently, and effectively have given their utmost efforts to serving the people and the Army while striving to build the Vietnamese public health sector. With great pride in our achievements, we must frankly admit shortcomings and weaknesses in the public health sector. In my speech at the opening session of the Party Central Committee's Fourth Plenum, I pointed out some weaknesses of the sector, and the fourth plenum resolution also discussed these shortcomings. As a result, I do not want to repeat them, but hope that you comrades will strive to formulate measures to overcome them as soon as possible.

"At present we have many tasks yet to be fulfilled, as stipulated by the Party Central Committee Fourth Plenum's resolution. Carrying out the party resolutions is the task of the entire party, people, and Army. However, we must strive to urgently implement the party resolution on caring for and protection of the people's health. This is the most pressing task of the public health sector and of all its physicians, cadres, and workers. It is lofty yet very difficult work.

"To fulfill this task, you comrades must thoroughly study the party resolution to firmly grasp its contents and spirit. The entire sector, each grass-roots unit, each doctor and pharmacist, and each cadre and worker must strive to draw on lessons from experiences to formulate a program of action to fulfill tasks assigned to each agency and individual of the sector. You must formulate concrete plans, measures, and steps to score notable progress in various aspects.

"We always consider public health to be an undertaking for all the people. As a result, while carrying out its tasks, the public health sector must strive to closely coordinate with other sectors at the central level, the administration, mass organizations, and Red Cross societies in localities to motivate the masses to participate in caring for and protecting the people's health while satisfactorily implementing the motto: The state and the people work together. It must strive to seek cooperation and assistance from foreign countries, public health, and social organizations, and friends from around the world.

"To triumphantly implement resolutions of the Seventh CPV Congress and the Party Central Committee Fourth Plenum, the contingent of Vietnamese physicians must strive to develop the sector's glorious tradition and that of the older generations, to enhance their capabilities, to combine traditional medicine with modern medicine, to absorb and to apply modern medical treatments, to promote close coordination between civilian and military physicians, and to enhance the medical ethics of extending love and care for their patients as mothers do for their beloved children.

"The party, state, and society as a whole must strive to improve the daily life and working conditions of the contingent of Vietnamese physicians. Efforts must be made to formulate appropriate policies on training, fostering, using, and treating physicians to enable them to develop their capabilities and creativities for the cause of caring for and protecting the people's health.

"I sincerely thank the public health sector and the Vietnam Red Cross Society for awarding me two medals in recognition of my contributions to the humanitarian work and people's health. Our party, including me, will do its best to fulfill this lofty task." [applause] [end recording]

Dear friends, also at this meeting the Ministry of Pubic Health awarded the Independence Order, 3d Class, to 10 cadres of the ministry for their great contributions to the revolutionary cause of our party and nation.

Vo Van Kiet Approves Subsidized Fertilizer Costs

BK2802154593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet recently issued a decision saying that the policy of subsidizing the transport cost of phosphate fertilizers to mountainous provinces will be continued in 1993.

The government will pay part of the transport cost of phosphate fertilizers from the northern region to the south to be used in agricultural production, and part of the transport cost of apatite from the northern region to the south to be used in superphosphate production plants that serve the southern provinces.

The principles guiding the transport subsidy proportion, and the coordination between ministries and sectors and the production establishments, are detailed in government circular No 1765/PTRT dated 4 May 1992 and circular No 1286/TTRT dated 5 December 1992 issued by the Prime Minister Office.

In 1992 the government subsidized fertilizer transport costs to the mountainous provinces, and also the transport cost of phosphate fertilizers to the south to be used in agricultural production at a total cost of 31.248 billion dong.

Vo Van Kiet Addresses Hanoi Youth Conference

BK0103055993 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet attended and addressed the second conference of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Party Central Committee on the afternoon of 26 February.

Addressing the conference, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet pointed out the duty of youths in the current stage and urged the Youth Union Central Committee and various echelons, sectors, and localities to cooperate in developing the vanguard role of youths in all areas, given the current socioeconomic situation.

For each city, attention should be paid to solving unemployment—taking into account various programs designed to develop industrial production and traditional handicraft professions, expand export industry, and put into play capital construction—and to creating conditions for youths to develop their technical innovations, to improve product quality, to reduce production cost, and to take the lead in the renovation of the managerial mechanism, in the fight against corruption and smuggling, and in the struggle to do away with the now-prevalent wasteful use of public funds.

Youths should also actively participate in sociocultural activities and in the fight against social vices, especially the bad practices of superstition and prostitution.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet also emphasized the role of youths on the agricultural production and new countryside-building front, saying that the state welcomes and encourages youths to develop their capibilities to regreen wasteland and bare hills under various forms such as setting up plantations, farm sites, enterprises of all sorts, share-holding corporations, limited partnerships, and joint ventures with the private sector, including with foreign countries; and that the state will promulgate and perfect various policies aimed at creating favorable conditions for the wholesome growth of the younger generation and the youth movement, and more importantly, for the development of the great potential of youths in the cause of national construction.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet expressed the hope that with their tradition of pioneering in the fight for national defense in the past, today our youths will be shock troops in industrial production and will be the best-suited replacements for their older generations in the years to come in the struggle for a prosperous people and a powerful country and for national construction and defense.

Party Control Department Convenes Conference

BK0103101393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] The party Central Committee's Control Department convened a national conference of control cadres to assess party control work over the past year in accordance with the resolutions of the Seventh party Congress and the party Central Committee's Second and Third Plenums. The conference was held from 24-26 February in Hue City, Thua Thien-Hue Province. Comrade Do Quang Thang, secretary of the party Central Committee and director of the party Central Committee's Control Department, directed the conference.

The report of the party Central Committee's Control Department and the views expressed by the delegates clearly indicated that overcoming all difficulties, party control cadres from the central down to grass-roots levels have effected changes for the better and made efforts to renovate the forms and contents of party control work. This contributed to improving the quality of party members and lower-level party organs. Through evaluation and assessment, they have guided everyone in implementing the principles governing party organization and activities and preserved the quality and revolutionary ethics of par[illegible] members.

Leaders Pay Respects to Late Lao Party Advisor

BK0103141993 Hanoi VNA in English 1348 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 1—A delegation of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee led by General Secretary Do Muoi called at the Lao Embassy here today to pay last tribute to Sisomphon Lovansai, advisor to, and former Politburo member of, the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, and vice president of the Supreme People's Assembly, who died in Vientiane last Wednesday [24 February].

The delegation included Nong Duc Manh, Politburo member of the party Central Committee, chairman of the National Assembly, and President of the Vietnam-Laos Friendship Association Phan Van Khai, Polititburo member of the party Central Committee, deputy prime minister and president of the Vietnamese section of the Vietnam-Laos Cooperation Commission and Hong Ha, secretary and head of the External Relations Commission of the party Central Committee.

Writing in the funeral book, General Secretary Do Muoi described Sisomphon Lovansai as a 'close friend of the Vietnamese people and an important contributor to the consolidation and development of the Vietnam-Laos special friendship and [word indistinct]'.

The delegations from the External Relations Commission, the Organization Commission and the Ideology and Culture Commission of the party Central Committee, the Foreign Ministry, the National Assembly Office, the Vietnam-Laos Friendship Association, the Vietnamese section of the Vietnam-Laos Cooperation Commission, and the Hanoi party organization also laid floral tributes to the deceased.